Sunday, January 8, 2012 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 31 P28 Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON SPEAKERS to 4467 www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirernet Twitter: @inquirerph

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VI

PINOY HUMOR overwhelms Facebook and other social networking sites as netizens parody the new tourism slogan. But it's good news for Philippine tourism, says DOT. (More fun fare on Pages A10, A11. Story below.)

'CJ can't afford condos'

Palace steps up pressure on Corona to disclose SALN

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG yesterday stepped up the pressure on Chief Justice Renato Corona to disclose his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), claiming that Corona's salary as a government official would not have been enough for him to pay for the purchase of a luxury condominium unit worth more than P14 million.

By Budget Secretary Florencio Abad's reckoning, if an official does not earn enough to buy a multimillion-peso property—plus a few others, as alleged by the House prosecution panel in Corona's impeachment trial—then the properties may have been acquired through other means.

"If it's true that he owns not just the Bellagio penthouse but possibly other real properties in prime locations and knowing that the income alone from government service will not afford the Chief Justice the ability to acquire these assets, a reasonable mind can only conclude that the Chief Justice may have other sources of income outside of government or that these properties may have been acquired some other way," Abad said in a text message.

CHIEF A4

Let the 'fun' begin: Netizens spoof, bash new tourism slogan

By Tarra Quismundo

NETIZENS did have fun either defending or ridiculing apart the country's newest tourism slogan, "It's more fun in the Philippines."

Filipino humor quickly found a new target and went viral over the catchphrase, giving it different spins which may or may not help the cause of Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez Jr.

Ideas fresh or farcical quickly sprouted on Facebook and Twitter pages; one user came up with a "poster" showing two men in a sing-along showdown and captioned "Death by 'My Way': It's More Fun..." It was a reference to that joke about the Frank Sinatra classic being the usual fare of inebriated karaoke-inclined revelers in these parts.

Another user thought "Watching the Pilots" would also be a source of fun events promoting in the Philippines, posting a photo of a boy urinating against a wall. The image was

NETIZENS A10

Nazarene devotion: Portrait of a nation

By Recah Trinidad
Devotee for 10 years

THERE are unwritten rules that the initiate must learn for a safe and proper participation in the annual fiesta procession of the Mahal na Poong Nazareno in Quiapo.

Unlike grammar and composition though, there's no school where the endless and silent of this immensely popular religious ritual are taught.

As a result, it's often to each his own, the whiles the habit, as the unknown image of the Black Nazarene murmurs through frenzied streets, under continuous rain from a maddened multitude trying to beat one another, jumping, pushing and diving, in a blind rush to reconnect to a link with the Lord.

A first-timer who observes the

BLACK A8

VIVA SEÑOR NAZARENO! The Black Nazarene is being prepared for tomorrow's procession. For the author, it is his annual rite to beg for forgiveness and his renewal of his subscription to God's grace. RAFFY LERMA

'Abused' wife sues husband; rocks Madrigal, Ortigas clans

By Dexter L. Lacza

A SCION of the landed Madrigal clan has sued her husband—himself heir to the vast Ortigas property development fortune—for concubinage after the latter allegedly took his wife's best friend as his mistress and cohabited with her in a Pasig City townhouse jointly owned by the spouses.

More impressively, 83-year-old Susana Madrigal Royo-Ortigas accused her husband, 69-year-old former ambassador to Mexico Francisco M. Ortigas III of having a string of affairs over their final-decade-long marriage, including having sex with one of their household helpers in their own marital bed.

"The painful truth is that I married an abuser, a sexaholic, an incorrigible philanderer and worse, a pervert," Royo-Ortigas said in a 75-page complaint affidavit filed last month with the Pasig prosecutor's office.

"Our marriage, contrary to how it is perceived in high society has been marked by years of intimidation, harassment, repeated psychological and verbal abuse, all courtesy of my husband, respondent Dopal."

The accusations of concubinage was leveled against Ortigas (nicknamed "Dopal") and his "alleged mistress," Ma. Antonia Loyzaga (or

MISERY A6

Tourism big winner in 'Worlds' debate

By Tarra Quismundo

SOME sampled balut and other Filipino street food. Others took the chance to find holiday bargains in the various shopping malls. Many extended their stay to see the country's beaches and other attractions.

No tourism team won in this year's World Universities Debating Championships (WUDC), but the huge turnout of international participants proved to be a trophy in itself for Philippine tourism.

Crowning early tourism for the tourism industry this year, the year-ending WUDC which was recently hosted by De La Salle University (DLSU) was estimated to generate hundreds of millions pesos in revenue courtesy of the roughly 1,400 participants from 61 nations.

The figure came from the Department of Tourism (DOT), which La Salle tapped as a partner to promote the global event. The organizers, for example, packaged the otherwise purely scholastic summit into a sort of holiday destination by coming up with a catchy poster that says "Take Me to Manila" and featuring the image of the iconic jeepney set against a radiant tropical sun.

More than 220 universities, including the world's top-tier schools like Harvard, Princeton, Cambridge, Yale, Stanford, Tokyo University and the National University of Singapore, fielded teams in the grueling competition which ran from Dec. 27 to Jan. 4.

Considered the Olympics of student debates, the 32nd "Worlds" was hosted by La Salle this year in line with the university's centennial celebration. It was the second

TOURISM A9

Pinoy president of US medical group helping poor in 120 countries

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARE PRESPORT—A Filipino heads the Michigan-based World Medical Relief Inc. (WMRI), which supports public health care by collecting surplus medical resources and shipping these life-savers to 120 countries.

This is the third year that George Samson, a nursing undergraduate and a native of Mayoralong, Pampanga, is serving as president of WMRI.

PINOY A9

WHAT'S INSIDE

NEWS • **Don't** mob the priests, Nazarene devotees asked • **Lagman** to Suarez: I have numbers • **Personal** grudge eyed in editor's killing **WORLD** • **China** hits US plan to expand presence in Asia **TALK OF THE TOWN** • **Asians** of the Year **LIFESTYLE** • **Remembering** 'OMG' moments **SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE** • **Api. de.ap** wants you to hit the books • **Pacquiao** vs. Mayweather: Fight that could end up victim of its magnitude **ENTERTAINMENT** • **Tilda Swinton** talks about 'We need to Talk about Kevin'

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms, becoming mostly cloudy with occasional rain over Eastern and Central Visayas and the Eastern portion of Mindanao which may trigger flashfloods and landslides.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cotabato	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Dumaguete	Cloudy with Rains
Puerto Princesa	Rain Showers	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Guimaras	Cloudy with Rains
Catarman	Partly Cloudy	Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains

Weather forecast courtesy of Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa)

6/42
9 5
29 10
18 30

SUERTRES
4 9 9
5 0 6
1 0 0

SIX DIGIT (Peryahan)
1 4 2 2 2 5

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN
6 12 17 25 28 38
P11,962,812.40

6/55 GRAND LOTTO
1 15 30 33 51 53
P84,502,785.60

LOTTO TIPS | Text GEN LOTTO, send to 4467 | PO Reviews

Lagman to Suarez: I have numbers

By Cynthia D. Balana

"I HAVE the numbers."

This was the response of Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman to Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez, who has threatened to force a vote to oust Lagman as minority leader when lawmakers return to the House of Representatives on Jan. 14.

"Sir (Suarez) is counting on the same people who have signed (a resolution) for the motion, and these people have sustained (itself)," Lagman told the Inquirer in an interview.

Lagman was referring to a House resolution originally on "absolute majority" in the minority bloc before the Christmas break.

"I have an absolute majority. They all signed it. Ayaw nila sa mas pumipirme si Kuya, di ako hawak niyan! (no one has signed for him, so what does he have?)," he said.

Earlier, Lagman issued a press statement saying that Suarez must be using a "bloodless scheme" in clustering the 19 of the 29 opposition congressmen, some on his side and, citing a term-sharing agreement made in July 2010.

Lagman had insisted that there was no term-sharing agreement between him and Suarez, for the post of Minority Leader.

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supporting him to keep his post simply wanted a "competent, credible and consensus leadership" in the minority.

"Representative Danilo Suarez must not disparage and demean the importance of his colleagues who are only expressing support for my leadership, but called lately some me to continue leading the opposition," Lagman said.

"Even granting that Suarez's imagined term-sharing of the minority leadership existed, minority members can entertain such agreement, which is not binding on them," he stressed.

As for Suarez's challenge that he stop dragging former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the controversy, Lagman said it was Suarez who "dragged her as necessarily implicated the former leader.

"How can someone not a previous (Arroyo) appointee, who is the one dragging the president into this? Or help. Gusaw pa ni(yang) headquarters, yung espiya! (the even hinted the location of the headquarters)," Lagman said.

Lagman had said that sources on Wednesday night called Suarez and several other members at her party Kampi to an emergency meeting in her hometown at Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC), where she is under hospital arrest for election offenses, to discuss the plot to oust him.

Lagman said that while he respected Suarez as the former majority president and later Pampanga representative, he was never "a GMA stooge and does not succumb to her bidding."

"I should be frankly, who must stop involving former President Arroyo in his struggle and should not use her hospital confinement as his campaign headquarters," Lagman said.

"Suarez must wean himself from the former president and desist running to her for help," he added.

On Friday, some lawmakers again paid the former president a visit at the VMMC in Pasay.

A source who spoke on condition of anonymity said that at least 60 congressmen were seen entering the detention hospital.

It was not disclosed, however, what matters were discussed.

"The congressmen arrived separately but caught up with each other at the same," the informant added. The source did not know the former president's visitors.

The source claimed that Arroyo's son, Ang Galing Pinoy party-list Rep. Joni Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, was also there.

The visit came after Suarez said he would seek a vote on the leadership of the minority bloc when Congress reopens. With a report from Julie M. Aurelio

Rain seen in Mindanao, Visayas

By TJ Burgonio

FOR THE folks in the eastern parts of Mindanao and the Visayas, there will be no respite from the rain.

Cloudiness associated with the tail end of a cold front will bring heavy rain over eastern Mindanao and Visayas between Saturday and Sunday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said yesterday.

The band of clouds over a broad area, including Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Davao Oriental, the agusan provinces, the Davao provinces and Compostela Valley, where a mining community was hit by a landslide that killed at least 28 people.

"It will be rainy in these areas, which could trigger flash floods and landslides," Pagasa forecaster Nilo Armando said in a phone interview. "There will be thunderstorms that could be associated with heavy rainfall."

Over the past days, bands of clouds had been appearing, disappearing and reappearing over Mindanao, but there has been no sign of a low pressure area developing there, the forecaster said.

The tail end of the cold front, a consequence of cold and warm air, will also blanket eastern Visayas with cloudiness that would bring frequent rain on Saturday and Sunday, Pagasa said.

"The rain may trigger flash floods and landslides," Armando added.

The northeast monsoon (amihan) is the prevailing weather system affecting the main island of Luzon, and would bring frequent rain over the western sections, particularly the Ilocos region, he said.

In Metro Manila, are should expect mostly cloudy skies," he said.

Partly cloudy to cloudy skies with the possible occurrence of light rain is expected during the Feast of the Black Nazarene on Monday, Pagasa said.

Moderate to strong winds blowing from the northeast should prevail over Luzon and the Visayas and the coastal waters along these areas would be moderate to rough.

Pagasa said fishermen, Cagayan and Ilocos Norte should expect colder-weather because of the amihan in the coming days.

PDEA mulls over charges vs owner of Alabang house

By DJ Yap

THE PHILIPPINE Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) is studying whether there is basis for possession charges against the illegal family-controlled Puerto Holdings Inc., owner of a property in Ayala Alabang Village that was apparently converted into a "shabu" factory by five Chinese nationals.

Vice Legal team is studying all options right now," PDEA public information chief Evangeline Gonzales said, adding that Puerto Holdings could be held liable for the illicit drug operations on the one-hectare property on Acacia Avenue.

She said the legal team would meet on Monday to assess available information. She declined to say whether PDEA had called in or was planning to talk to lawyers or representatives of Puerto Holdings.

Asked about PDEA's protocol regarding the owners of properties used in illegal drug operations, Almonte said: "It depends. If the landlords knew of the drug activities, then they would be liable. Otherwise, no."

Early Friday, PDEA agents raided the house, arrested the suspects and seized truckloads of drug paraphernalia and equipment from the "methamphetamine" laboratory allegedly used to manufacture methamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu.

Investigators discovered that the house leased by the suspects for P300,000 a month was registered to the name of Puerto Holdings, a company controlled by the late philanthropist Consuelo Madrigal Collantes.

Almonte said the five suspects, who all had from Hong Kong, would undergo inquest proceedings.

"We had to use interpreters because some of them speak Cantonese, others Mandarin. But based on their passports, they all came from Hong Kong," she said.

The five were identified as Lam Ka Chun, 31; Yeo Bing Chau, alias Lam Tin Sin, 49; Ewok Chi Keung, 42; Choi Yiu Chun, 30; and Chui Tin Sui, 33.

They will be charged with violation of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, particularly with regard to the section penalizing the manufacture and possession of illegal drugs and drug-making equipment.

Almonte said the PNP's needed to use four trucks to haul all the confiscated materials from the property, including finished shabu products, drums containing controlled precursors and chemicals and high-end laboratory equipment. An inventory had not been completed as of yesterday because of the sheer volume of materials.

Based on the laboratory equipment we found, the estimated capacity of the facility is 10 kilograms per production cycle which takes about two to three days," said PDEA Director General Jose Gutierrez.

The building is now reportedly one of the companies whose ownership was being contested by Collantes' sister, former senator Jamby Madrigal.

The children Collantes died on March 26, 2008. In her will, she left her estate to her husband, Manuel, a former burger-chain executive, sisters Ma. Antonia Madrigal and Gisela Gonzalez Montevirgen and grandnephew Vicente Eusebio Viana.

Also yesterday, Rodon's former boss, Jess Kwankee urged the Department of Justice and Bureau of Immigration to immediately issue a hold departure order barring the five Chinese suspects from leaving Manila.

"I am making this call because the (Aquino) administration repeatedly allowed the departure of Chinese nationals who were arrested in a shabu laboratory in Tarlac province and in Subic," Kwankee said in a text message to the Inquirer.

Kwankee lamented that while Filipinos are treated like criminals when arrested, the Philippines allowed Chinese nationals caught in illegal drug activities here to go scot-free.

"This is totally unfair," he said, adding such a situation had contributed to the deterioration of some of anti-illegal drugs personnel in the country.

Malacañang, for its part, called on owners of properties that are either rented or leased to thoroughly acquaint themselves with those they do business with to make sure they were not criminals, such as those arrested in Ayala Alabang.

Undersecretary Abigail Valte, deputy presidential spokesperson, said over state radio dzRH: "It shouldn't be all about transactions." With reports from Cynthia Balana and Norman Bordadora

Flight delays blamed on broken gear

SEVERAL domestic and international flights at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) were delayed due to defective aviation equipment used by air traffic controllers, an official of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) said.

The official, who declined to be named for lack of authority to speak on the matter, said the airport's terminal radar data display (TRDD) had been "unserviceable" since Dec. 2.

He said the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (Caap) had advised authorities that it would take until the end of the month to fix the equipment.

Because of the busted gear, air traffic controllers are forced to increase the separation—landing and take off—between aircraft, thus, causing the flight delays, especially during peak hours.

Air traffic controllers are forced to space the airplanes farther apart, causing delays in both arrivals and departures," the official told the Inquirer.

Naia-six, however, blamed the delays on the increased number of flights because of the holiday season.

The TRDD is used by air traffic controllers to identify all aircraft within a 60-mile radius of the Naia.

It generates data from various radars scattered around the Philippines and presents the aircrafts' position, altitude, ground speed, among other information needed by the air traffic controllers to control the air lead to departure of airplanes.

"The equipment is used by air traffic controllers to guide the pilots," the source said.

But both the Caap and flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) downplayed the importance of the busted equipment, saying it was not a big deal and did not pose a threat to the safety of airline passengers.

"That equipment is also called the secondary surveillance radar. It was just placed there for added convenience for air traffic controllers, but with or without it, the operation and the work of air traffic controllers in guiding the plane would proceed as usual," Caap Director General Roman Catarroja said. Nina D. Santos

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Entrance Examination:
24 March 2012
Interview:
26 & 27 March 2012
Classes Start:
June 2012

* HPDP, which aims to strengthen the health policy development process, is supported by the Department of Health and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

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Grudge eyed in Gen San editor's slay

By Aquiles Z. Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police are looking at a personal grudge as the motive behind Friday's ambush of Tarok publisher and editor-in-chief Christopher Guarin.

Chief Supt. Benjamin Mantele, chief of the Central Mindanao police, said this was based on the results of an initial investigation that the local police conducted.

It came out that the motive was personal, he said, without elaborating.

But Mantele said the investigation was continuing.

Guarin, 41, was driving home with his wife and 9-year-old daughter when he was shot by two unidentified men riding tandem on a motorcycle.

He jumped out of his car after the first shot was fired to protect his wife and daughter. He tried to run away but the gunmen gave chase and pumped more bullets into him.

Rendered helpless at the scene of the crime operatives (Goc), Guarin died after sustaining five gunshot wounds.

"He sustained no injury on his neck, two on his body one in the arm and one in the thigh. He also recovered three spent shells and a slug of a .45-cal. pistol," the boss report said.

Guarin's wife, Lyn, suffered a superficial wound while their daughter was unhurt but in a state of shock.

'Give us time'

"We are determined to solve the incident that gave us time," Mantele said during a dialogue with journalists here Friday.

He said a task force had been formed to go after Guarin's killers.

"This is under my direct supervision but the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in the region serves as the lead agency," Mantele said.

In a statement, journalists here expressed shock and were appalled by the brazenness of the attack that further reinforced the prevailing culture of impunity.

They said the police should not concentrate only on the Guarin killing but also on another attack on the post.

Mayor Darlene Antonino-Custodio said the immediate help the city government would extend was to facilitate the issuance of permits to carry (FTC) firearms to journalists here.

"I'm going to help them secure FTC from Camp Crame," she said.

Only for self-defense

Custodio said she would personally shoulder the cost of the FTCs that would be granted to qualified journalists here.

Jamie Cohen Jr., president of the Central Mindanao Police Press Corps, welcomed the mayor's initiative, saying it would help protect journalists.

But Edwin Espejo, chair of the local chapter of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), said arming journalists was not the solution.

Espejo said prosecuting the killers was the best way to address killings.

A Malacañang official said yesterday the police had been arresting suspects and filing cases in connection with the killing of journalists.

Undersecretary Abigail Valte, deputy presidential spokesperson, said the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police had always acted swiftly on attacks against members of the media.

"No suspects aren't just arrested but cases are filed. The prosecution of the case proceeds," Valte said over state-run radio dzRB.

With a report from Norman Bordadora

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COA finds irregularities in Tesda GMA program

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COMMISSION on Audit (COA) has uncovered several irregularities, such as fictitious training centers and the double entry of names, in the Pinoybisnq Gloria Scholarship program implemented by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

In its 2009 audit report on Tesda, the COA said the government spent nearly P235 million for the scholarship program but failed to meet its goal of providing jobs immediately to at least 60 percent of its graduates.

Under the program, training schools were supposed to receive first at least 60 percent of their graduates were employed immediately after graduation or within 12 months after their completion of training. They were also supposed to enrolled a teaching system for the graduates.

Tesda entered into an agreement with 32 partners under the umbrella-based group training scheme in 2009. This required funding of P229.413 million.

In response to the COA report, Tesda's current management said it had formed a team that is now in the audit findings and had taken steps to address concerns about training for work scholarship programs.

The COA found that no real training sessions were held by some of the training schools and included nonexistent institutions.

Interviewed by COA auditors, one student who took the finishing course for roll center repair admitted that there was no actual training conducted and he was given P750 to pretend that the training was completed.

Another student also confessed that he did not undergo training but was made to fill and sign documents. A third student said she signed a voucher for P300 as allowance, but was not trained as well.

The COA explained that (1) it managed to check 22.3 graduates out of over 24,000. But it said it was "alarming" that of the 221 graduates, 151 could no longer be located due to invalid contact numbers.

Fake scholars

It also said there was a probability that 42 graduates who were employed were not actually POS scholars but their training schools were paid. It found that the graduates were already undergoing training in a call center when they were made to sign scholarship vouchers by training providers who visited their company. They were made to sign with the promise that they would get Tesda certificates, but none were issued to them.

The COA also found double entries of names in the same training programs, while on the list of scholars, the same persons appeared under different names. Some participants also had overlapping training schedules.

As for the employment info, the COA said only one region was able to meet the target of training a 75 percent employment info for graduates. There were also some training programs that were not backed by reports on the employment status of the graduates.

Loopholes

The COA attributed the low employment rate to the absence of a penalty clause in the agreement between Tesda and the training schools should the latter fail to meet the targeted employment rate, as well as the lack of a monitoring and reporting system on the employment status of scholars.

There was also no immediate procedure in coordination with law enforcement and local government units. Graduates were also not required to report their employment status to Tesda or the training schools, it added.

The COA recommended that Tesda take appropriate action against officials responsible for the weak implementation of the program, and explain why the training schools were allowed to continue despite violating the terms of their agreement with Tesda.

Tesda should also create a team to investigate the authenticity of the scholars, majority of whom provided invalid or fictitious contact numbers, it added.

COA added that future agreements should include provisions for accountability with the terms, and there should be alternative solutions to meet the project objectives. There should also be a monitoring scheme to gauge the progress of the project, it added.

In response, Tesda told the COA that it had adopted a stricter selection process by participating technical vocational institutions under the new guidelines for the training for work scholarship program.

Prerequisites

The selected institutions would have to be supported by labor market information and employment facilitation mechanisms, and linkages with government agencies. They should also have career guidance offices for training and job placement. Those who fail to meet targets would not be included in subsequent categories.

On the selection of scholars, Tesda said only applicants with appropriate interests and aptitude would be given slots. Priority would be given to the unemployed coming from families with low capacity for free government's conditional cash transfer program.

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The Key to Customer Satisfaction	Jan. 19	Sales Tools for Entrepreneurs and Managers	Jan. 20
Starting a Mini-Restaurant Business	Jan. 21	Public Speaking Essentials	Jan. 26
Starting a Mini-Printing Business	Jan. 26	Customer Service Training	Jan. 27
Starting a Catering & Food Service Business	Jan. 28	Basic Computer Training	Jan. 28
Starting a Mini-Bakeshop Business	Jan. 31	Successful Telephone Skills Training	Jan. 31 Feb.
Food Safety and Sanitation Training & Seminar	Feb. 2	Basic Bookkeeping Training	Feb. 9-10
Office Time Management Skills Training	Feb. 3	How to Make a Lasting Impression	Feb. 10
How to Succeed in the Retail Market	Feb. 4	Inventory Control and Auditing	Feb. 16
Starting a Beauty Clinic Business	Feb. 7	Basic Supervisory Skills Training	Feb. 17
Starting a Mini-Grocery Business	Feb. 9	Time Management for Office Workers	Feb. 23
How to Buy and Sell Used Equipment	Feb. 11	Outstanding Management Training	Feb. 24
Starting a Pet Shop Business	Jan. 25	Customizing and Cost Accounting	Jan. 26-27
How to Start and Run a Franchise	Feb. 14	Creativity Session in Management Training	Feb. 3
Starting a Mini-Laundry Business	Feb. 15	Basic Bookkeeping and Accounting	Feb. 3
Starting a Convenience Store Business	Feb. 16	Computerized Bookkeeping Procedures & Design	Feb. 10
Starting a Drugstore Business	Feb. 17	Computerized Manufacturing Practices	Feb. 17
Start Your Banking	Feb. 18	Auditing and Preparing Budgets	Feb. 24
Starting a Convenience Store Business	Feb. 21	Computing Salaries, Wages & Benefits	Feb. 25
Starting a Mini-Restaurant & Commercial Business	Feb. 22	Computer Service Training	Feb. 28

For further information & registration, please call: Tel. 727-0000 | 727-0669 | 498-9949 | 221-0745
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• DECEMBER 4, 2011	• MARCH 17, 2012	• MARCH 24, 2012	• APRIL 14, 2012	• FEBRUARY 18, 2012
• FEBRUARY 5, 2012	• MARCH 24, 2012	• APRIL 14, 2012	• APRIL 21, 2012	• MARCH 24, 2012
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Bus drivers, conductors to get fixed pay

By Paolo S. Montecillo

DRIVERS and conductors of public utility buses (PUB) should now be paid fixed salaries following an order by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) abolishing the commission system for such workers.

The LTFRB en banc resolution earlier approved on Jan. 5 said bus company owners should start paying their employees above the minimum wage.

The new rules is in line with efforts to provide better service to the public by improving the working conditions of public utility vehicle employees.

"We have been discussing this with operators for several months. They should be ready to implement this by now," LTFRB board member Manuel Isaac said in an interview over the weekend.

New rules

Under the LTFRB's new rules, drivers and conductors should not be allowed to work more than eight hours every day to ensure that they are well-rested while on the job. Their salaries should also be "above minimum wage," the regulator said.

And like all employers in other industries, bus drivers and conductors should now be entitled to a 13th month bonus.

These moves are expected to cut the number of bus accidents in the country.

Isaac said the abolition of the commission system would also eliminate competition among drivers for passengers, which usually results in reckless road behavior.

Compliance reports

Bus companies were given six months to submit compliance reports to the LTFRB that should include a list of the company's payroll and time sheets each employee is getting paid.

Companies that fail to submit these reports face the cancellation of their franchises, Isaac said.

Serious discussions involving agencies such as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Department of Labor and Employment on the implementation of fixed salaries had been going on since the middle of last year.

In Congress, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño's House Bill No. 3470 also aims to give the policy a more solid legal foundation by making it a law.

The measure was filed after veteran journalist and University of the Philippines professor Leandro "Dindi" Fabella Sindayen was killed in a mishap between the bus she was in and a speeding bus on Commonwealth Avenue, in Quezon City, also known as the "killer highway."

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Palace assures tourists of safety despite US advisory

By Norman Bordadora and Tina G. Santos

MALACAÑANG yesterday assured tourists of their safety and security after the US Department of State issued a travel advisory to Americans to stay away from the Philippine government was unveiling its new global promotional campaign to lure tourists to the country.

"We do everything to ensure not just our citizens but also our visitors. There have been incidents in the past and we'd like to think that we've learned from those incidents," said Undersecretary Abigail Valte, Presidential Spokesperson and Palace spokesperson.

But the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) disagreed with the latest travel advisory.

"A travel advisory provides update on developments in Mindanao, but is essentially the same as the previous one," DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez said in a text message to reporters yesterday.

The latest US travel advisory was issued on Jan. 5.

"The Philippine government remains committed to maximizing public security and safety of Filipinos and of any foreign nationals staying in the country," the DFA said.

'Terrorist activity'

In its latest travel advisory posted on its website, the US state department said there were "risks of terrorist activity in the Philippines," particularly in Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago.

It, however, reminded US citizens "that terrorist attacks could be indiscriminate and could occur in any area of the country, including Manila. Public gathering places may be targeted, including (but not limited to) airports, shopping malls, conference centers and other public venues."

The travel advisory warned against "regional terrorist groups [that] have carried out bombings resulting in injuries and deaths," and "sporadic clashes" between the Philippine military and criminal groups in Mindanao's rural areas.

The Department of State also warned against kidnap-for-ransom groups who "continues to be active throughout the Philippines and have targeted foreigners, including US citizens."

"US citizens should exercise caution when traveling in the vicinity of demonstrations, since they can turn confrontational and possibly escalate to violence," the advisory said.

"A state of emergency is in effect for the Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat provinces, as well as the Cotabato City and Sultan Kudarat," it added.

The US travel advisory said travelers should expect heightened police activity and a significant military presence in these areas as well as avoidance from Philippine government officials may request or travel to these areas.

All about timing

The US travel advisory was issued a day before Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez unveiled the government's tourism projects aimed at attracting 4.1 million tourists this year.

"So at this point, what we can say is apart from the areas which our travelers give warnings for, it's safe to come to our country," Valte added over state-run radio station dzRB.

Valte nonetheless mentioned the need for airports and tourists to fully enjoy the sights and activities that the Philippines has to offer.

"If you also take the general precautions and you do not disregard your safety, there are many beautiful sceneries, there are many things to do here in our country and the truth of the matter is, as the law of the (Department of Tourism) goes, it is more fun in the Philippines," Valte said.

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Correction

IN THE JAN. 7 ISSUE, a story on Page A8 carried an erroneous head. It should have read: "Cebu 'screwed' Ling Brizuela Dukay; DC"—not Dukay.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors or anything in the Inq Pack, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 800 Building, Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Makati City, Metro Manila 1200, fax No. 897-47-92-98, e-mail address inqpack@inquirer.com.ph.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday – January 8, 2012
Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
The Salt has gone

Arise, Jerusalem, shine, for your light has come.

The Glory of Yahweh rises upon you.

Night still covers the earth and gloomy clouds veil the peoples, but Yahweh now rises and over you his glory appears.

Nations will come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes round about and see: They are all gathered and come to you, your sons from afar, your daughters tenderly carried.

This sight will make your face radiant, your heart throbbing and full: the riches of the sea will be turned to you, the wealth of the nations will come to you.

A flood of camels will cover you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah.

Those from Sheba will come, bringing with them gold and incense, all singing in praise of Yahweh.

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6
God's plan revealed

Brothers and sisters, you have been told of the graces God bestowed on me for your sake. By a revelation his gave me the hitherto-hidden secret, the mystery of Christ, as I have explained in a few words.

This mystery was not made known to past generations but only now, through truths, some given to holy apostles and prophets: how the nations through people elect like others to share in Christ Jesus the same heritage, incorporated and one in Christ Jesus the Promise.

Matthew 2:1-12
The magi

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in Judea, during the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw the rising of his star in the east and have come to honor him."

When Herod heard this he was greatly disturbed and with him all Jerusalem. He immediately called a meeting of all high-ranking priests and the scribes, and asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

"In the town of Bethlehem in Judea," they told him, "for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least among the clans of Judah, for from you will come a ruler, to be our ruler is to shepherd my people is, said."

Then Herod met the wise men in Bethlehem with the instruction, "Go and get precise information about the child. As soon as you have found him, report to me, so that I too may go and honor him."

After the meeting with the king, they set out. The star that they had seen in the East went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. The sight filled them with overwhelming joy. They went into the house and when they saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt and worshiped him. Then opened their bags and offered him their gifts of gold, incense and myrrh.

In a dream they were warned not to go back to Herod, so they took a new route to their country by another way.

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LIVE WITHOUT LIMITS

You can act, or not act, on disasters, Pinoys told

By Elizabeth Ludwigs
Correspondent

THERE are four things people can choose to do after a disaster strikes. Do nothing after picking up the pieces; look for someone to blame like the government; the unprepared local government or the President himself; talk about it and hope it was a bad dream, or act on it.

Dr. Miguel Vergara, president of the Clean Preparedness Center, says a Filipino living in Metro Manila can detach himself emotionally from the destructive massive flooding in the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan in Mindanao by introducing that he does not have relatives there.

However, the dip in the national economy will catch up with that indifferent citizen.

Speaking at a Rotary Club of Makati meeting at the Dusitan, in Manila on Tuesday, Vergara cited a figure from the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters that estimated that "the Philippines loses $900 million a year due to disasters and calamities. That amount can be ten times more this year."

Vergara, a physician who specializes in the field of disaster management, describes the year 2011 as "Seattle as regards disasters like earthquakes in the eastern part of the United States and storms in places where there didn't normally happen, like in Thailand and many parts of Europe. Phoenix, Arizona, experienced a huge dust storm, called haboob in Arabic. It was 30 miles high and covered the city. People thought it was the end of the world."

According to Vergara, the history of typhoons in the country shows that only once in two years does a strong typhoon pass through Mindanao, and only once in 10 years does it hit the north Mindanao. Thus, Tropical Storm "Sendong" was unexpected despite the warnings that were aired for several days that a weak storm was headed towards that part of the southern Philippines.

From 10 p.m. to 4 a.m., Sendong dumped 300 millimeters of rain on Cagayan de Oro City, which normally gets 150 millimeters of rain in an entire month. Much of the water (80 percent) came down from neighbouring upland Bukidnon. What worsened the disaster was that the affected houses were built along the Cagayan River.

Vergara predicts that if another typhoon blows over Cagayan de Oro in December 2012, the silt upstream that is now on the banks of the river would no longer hold as much water and the city would get flooded again. Worse, the rail bed have left erosion along the mountains, for all the water and mud to come down.

He warned that when trees, which hold the earth together, are cut in great amounts, "the water will just be delivered downhill."

"Thousands have died. It's an old story that will happen every year with the planet changing. It's like playing Russian roulette—which city will be hit next?" he said.

"It's a fact that there will be more severe and more frequent climatic events worldwide. Climate change is very real. The sea is rising slowly. Nature is inventing ways of killing us because we're punishing it. In. There's nowhere to run. Nature will catch up," he said.

For the government, according to Vergara, what people could do is to train and put up a fight the way they would when they know Senate Minority Floorleader is out to get them.

There are six steps in preparing for a disaster: Identifying the risks; assessing your situation; reviewing resources; listing gaps; planning to fill in the gaps; and evaluating, monitoring and reassessing.

For example, residents of Lopeda Court Village in Quezon City, a subdivision that stands on a waterway, have learned their lesson from frequent floods. Every time it rains, residents move their cars to higher ground.

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NEGOSYO PARA SA BAWAT PILIPINO!

Gov't withheld funds for barangay disaster preparedness—COA

By Leilah Salaverria

ALTHOUGH the country had been steamed by the effects of Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" the year before, the Department of Budget did not release funds for barangay disaster preparedness and other locally funded projects of the Department of Interior and Local Governments (DILG) in 2010, the Commission on Audit found.

In its 2010 report on the DILG released over the week-end, the COA said that of the P627.739 million appropriated for locally-funded projects, only P58.719 million or barely one quarter was actually released. Not released for the non-implementation of eight of six locally funded projects, including disaster security, emergency and disaster preparedness, and the rescue and relief operations program for barangays affected by calamities.

As Typhoon "Basyang" slammed Metro Manila and Central Luzon in July 2010, the DILG pleaded for the release of funds for relief and rescue operations but the request was not heeded, the auditors noted.

Over 100 people were reported dead and over 90 were injured before Basyang left the country. Three months later, in October, super Typhoon "Juan," with Category 5 winds of 220 kph, flattened parts of Isabela and Cagayan, leaving over 20 people dead. Worse disasters were to come in 2011.

He warned that when trees, which hold the earth together, are cut in great amounts, "the water will just be delivered downhill."

"Thousands have died. It's an old story that will happen every year with the planet changing. It's like playing Russian roulette—which city will be hit next?" he said.

"It's a fact that there will be more severe and more frequent climatic events worldwide. Climate change is very real. The sea is rising slowly. Nature is inventing ways of killing us because we're punishing it. In. There's nowhere to run. Nature will catch up," he said.

For the government, according to Vergara, what people could do is to train and put up a fight the way they would when they know Senate Minority Floorleader is out to get them.

There are six steps in preparing for a disaster: Identifying the risks; assessing your situation; reviewing resources; listing gaps; planning to fill in the gaps; and evaluating, monitoring and reassessing.

For example, residents of Lopeda Court Village in Quezon City, a subdivision that stands on a waterway, have learned their lesson from frequent floods. Every time it rains, residents move their cars to higher ground.

Other projects that got no allotments in 2010 were the anti-poverty support program for barangay-based development and the performance-based grant program for local government units.

Those that received funding were the emergency response network for literal 117 and the Philippine Center on Tsunami, Science (PCTS).

The DILG told the COA that the projects were not implemented because they were placed under the "standing clearance" portion of the budget, and were subject to approval by the Office of the President and Congress prior to the release of the funds.

"These projects had no released appropriations although there were plans and targets prepared, and activities scheduled to be undertaken by the offices responsible for their implementation," it said.

"Despite the department's request for the early release of the funds as per letter request dated July 14, 2010, and July 21, 2010, the DBM did not favorably consider the request," the auditors noted.

The COA said the DILG should insist on the release of the money for its projects.

"We recommend that management make strong representations with the Department of Budget and Management for the release of funds to implement the projects," it said.

'Sendong' victims get P22M in int'l aid

By Tina G. Santos

MORE THAN 10 victims of Tropical Storm "Sendong" from the international community as well as Filipinos overseas have raised $22,440,607.98 (roughly P1 billion), according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The amount includes donations from Philippine embassies and consulates around the world and private individuals and groups. It does not include donations or pledges without equivalent monetary value, or that given to the United Nations Development.

The amount is broken down into $11,495,824.83 in cash, $5,354,863.95 in kind and $5,589,000 in pledges.

New donors included France ($644,938.98), Taiwan ($758,000), Canada ($1,226,346.13) and the Russian Embassy in Manila ($964.49). Spain provided additional assistance in the amount of $1,376,325.89.

The Filipino community in Sydney, China donated $1,050.47 while the Philippine consulate in Melbourne gave $33,344.70. The Filipino community in the United States Northeast provided an additional $37,270.

Private companies have also provided assistance. Japanese companies Shinkoh, SEVEN Co. Ltd and Toshiba gave $(28,573.29, $64,760.41 and $(29,573.29, respectively, while the Asian Women's Circle in Riyadh gave $765.55. Korean companies have pledged to give $(118,000.

Mining permits will not be renewed, says mayor

BAGUIO: Campaign talks—Mayor Cuba Reyes yesterday announced he would not be renewing temporary permits to build tunnels at the gold-rush site in the town after a landslide on Thursday buried at least 28 people. At least 36 more are reported missing.

Reyes said he had learned from Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo to shut down all tunnels at high-risk sites in the wake of the "execute-and-tell-it-to-the-miners-no-2-chen landslide.

At least 16 people had been rescued in the upland village of Naguilian. Six of them are still in the hospital.

Maj. Ariesto Obligado, spokesperson of the 50th Infantry Division, said he expected the number of missing to rise as more relatives come in search of their kin.

"There will be an element of panic," Reyes said the tunnels. The temporary permits issued in limited operations, including reopenings, expired on Dec. 31, and tunnels operators were supposed to have until Jan. 20 to secure new permits, he said.

Reyes admitted that it would be very difficult to enforce the evacuation order. "Thousands of people will be displaced when the tunnels are finally closed," he said.

'Better to die up there'

"For these people, it is better to die up there than die of hunger down here," he said.

Reyes said he would muster the "political will" to enforce the order but added, "I cha dare a confrontation."

Dr. Arnulfo Lumayo, the municipal spokesperson, earlier told the Inquirer that there were at least 20,000 people in the mining town in Pantikian.

Lumayo said the municipal government had only a little over 100 employees compared to the tens of thousands who risk their lives at the gold rush site.

Logistically, the local government "can not afford it," he said. Adhering to the evacuation plan.

"Local government employees who will be tasked to implement the order will be at risk once the police and military leave the area," Lumayo said.

Lumayo admitted that forcing the people out would be a personal-security nightmare for him and his family once he tries to enforce such.

"I would be an easy target. These people will get back at me," he said.

Asked about protected areas that include mining areas, Lumayo said officials were involved in mining, the mayor replied, "That's not true."

The mining areas make up 50 percent of Pantikian's total land area of 90,000 hectares. But Lumayo said it would not be a big loss to the local government's coffers.

He said the municipal government only gets P2,000 to P4,000 from mining permit fees from each tunnel per year.

'Back to poverty, back to crime'

"There are only around 300 legal tunnels, and we don't earn much from them," he said.

There are about 1,000 tunnels in the mining areas, but only around 300 have permits to operate.

Pantikian has a population of 70,000. The 28,000 or so miners in the gold rush also include the miners' families and those engaged in small community businesses like ice-cart stores and vulcanize bays.

If the tunnels were closed, it would also affect business establishments downtown, where traders in mining areas get their supplies, the mayor said.

Reyes said he is headed for by this scenario would be the motorcycle drivers who earn at least P800 daily.

And worse, he said, the town will go back to what it was—known as a haven of poor people pushed to committing crimes.

"Both bingo, kahit former Black to poverty, back to crime," he said.

Reyes said the communist New People's Army also benefited from the mining activities in the area by forcing miners to give their money. "By estimate a P3 million to P4 million a month," he said. Reyes said there were also claims that some MPs who were themselves engaged in mining, like Abonitalia Bernadette Lacwalo and Princess Jan Angeline Bondoron.

New Canadian Business Visa

PCSO will pay hospital bills

By Mike Hamlet

THE PHILIPPINE Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) will shoulder the medical expenses of casualties of the Compostela Valley landslide, an official said Friday.

PCSO General Manager Jose Ferdinand Rojas II said the agency had commissioned its profit generating hospitals around the area, authorizing them to bill the PCSO for medical expenses incurred by victims of the Pantukan landslide. Latest figures showed 16 injured in the landslide, while 36 were dead and 30 missing.

"We intend to go directly to assist those hospitalized by government [facilities]," Rojas said in a phone interview.

Unlike relief goods that victims of Tropical storm "Sendong" in northern Mindanao unjustly needed, the pressing need for the landslide victims was medical attention, the official explained.

Meanwhile, the PCSO Davao office has begun conducting a needs assessment of the Pantukan landslide victims to see what other assistance the PCSO could provide, Rojas said.

Once the provincial office completes its assessment, the board would act on their recommendation immediately, Rojas said.

Chief Justice can't afford condominiums

From page A1

"That is why it becomes even more compelling for the Chief Justice to publicly disclose his SALN. Otherwise, inquiring minds will begin to speculate," he said.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said a government official's salary would really not be enough to buy a person's piece of property unless he has invested in lucrative inheritance or has reserves on investments made before entering government.

The Palace officials made the remarks after the publication of Corona's SALNs from the years that he served in Malacañang, which placed his net worth at almost P15 million in 1992 and to P34 million in 2002. The income climbed the data from a source previously close prosecution panel's evidence in Corona's impeachment trial.

Abad said he has yet to see Corona SALNs for 1992 and 2002 while Valte said the declarations should be in the records of the Office of the Ombudsman. She said the ombudsman has the records in case if the Palace had the same figures.

Aquino administration officials and anti-corona partisans have been harping on Corona's failure to make public the SALN since joining the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court spokesperson Midas Marquez has explained that high court justices have not published their SALNs since a 1992 resolution of the Supreme court sanctioning the release of the SALNs of justices and judges only when a term issue are which may "endanger, diminish or destroy their independence and objectivity in the performance of their judicial functions."

Court order needed

Author of the Supreme Court are obliged to submit documents concerning their assets and liabilities to the clerk of court every year. Since the 1992 resolution, parties requesting a copy of a judge's or a justice's SALN have to secure a court order.

Since the convoy for Corona to disclose his SALN, two Supreme Court justices have released details of their SALNs.

Associate Justices Antonio Carpio and Martin Loudes Jr. have furnished the Sona Media, one of the groups demanding that Corona produce his SALNs to show proof that he can afford to buy a pricy condominium, summaries of their SALNs.

House prosecutors are aiming to present Corona's alleged ownership of expensive real estate as evidence of corruption as his impeachment trial re-runs a week-long term in the Senate.

According to Valte, it would not be possible to afford a P34-million luxury condominium unit—let alone a few other pieces of real estate property—while living on a government salary for roughly 30 years.

"Not unless it could be shown there was an inheritance while in service," Valte told reporters in a radio interview.

Valte also said having the means to buy a property like Corona's alleged 300-square meter unit at the Bellagio development in Bonifacio Global City would depend on the pieces of property that he already owned even while living government salary.

"If only on a government salary, it really wouldn't be enough," she said.

Marquez did not answer calls and text messages in his phone, asking for comment on the latest rally from Malacañang.

Renato Francisco Jr., one of Corona's lawyer, also declined to comment on the case while drawing from the Chief Justice's legal team.

He declined to reveal the reasons for his departure, saying only that he would formalize it on Tuesday.

'Ignore surveys'

SENATE Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano has dismissed the importance of surveys in the outcome of the Corona impeachment trial.

"The surveys have nothing to do with the process for strengthening our institutions, for the strengthening of our institutions. And even if they did, we have to ignore (them) and (remain faithful) to the principles of impeachability," Cayetano told broadcast reporters.

"Sure, there are surveys now. But the survey has to do with the results (of the impeachment) itself," he said.

Rating drops

In the Social Weather Stations survey for the last quarter of 2011, Chief Justice Renato Corona's net satisfaction rating plunged to minus 14, meaning 21 percent of the respondents said they were satisfied with his performance against 35 percent who said they were not.

Cayetano also criticized the House prosecutors who probe to presenting their supposed evidence against Corona before the impeachment trial.

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"For me, it's simple. If you want to be a prosecutor, don't talk outside the impeachment court. If you want to talk, then don't be a prosecutor. You can be a spokesperson or an individual adverse (counsel)," Cayetano said.

Maintaining yesterday said it was not involved by the senator judges' bias against Corona by evidence against Corona ahead of the impeachment trial.

Trillanes' sale criticism

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV said he would only on "political accountability" in deciding Corona's fate.

Trillanes said the impeachment trial was a political one, and "any verdict should not be based solely on evidence as it now becomes a matter of public policy."

"The overarching policy issue in this whole impeachment episode is, whether the conviction or acquittal of Chief Justice Renato Corona would be good for our country," he said a recent University of the Philippines Fonsis.

"In works this, I intend to use political acceptability as the sole criterion to evaluate the projected outcomes of either policy alternative of conviction or acquittal," he said.

Trillanes said he would regulate "policy research tools such as quantitative and qualitative researches and stakeholder analysis ... along with extensive consultations."

He said this approach would help him determine what decision would be "politically acceptable."

"(The strategy) could very well blow the house of the individual under media influence from the true will of the people," he said. —Christine F. Zaguirre

'Abused' wife sues husband; rocks Madrigal, Ortigas clans

From page B1

"Woman," reportedly said on her "embarrassing and having sexual intercourse under scandalous circumstances during our marriage," Joyce Ortiga said.

She said that before she decided to file the complaint, she had (been) worried that doing so would "only add to my emotional torment and humiliation."

"I have been discouraged to file this case because I was told that we live in a society which is forgiving of philandering husbands," she said. "I have chosen to air dirty laundry in public."

But the respondents' alleged acts "were not only immoral but by law a violation of the marital vows that Paupi and I both. They are also (unlawful), horrendous and demeaning, and for which there must be adequate consequence under the law," Joyce Ortiga stressed.

The best friend

In the complaint, the married of hour she invited Legarda—her best friend, prior to her discovery of the affair—on live in their conjugal home in South Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, after the latter suffered some financial difficulties.

When Ortigas was appointed ambassador to Mexico in August 2008, Joyce Ortigas even decided to bring Legarda along, in an act her husband's assistant, because of her command of the Spanish language.

Aside from speaking fluent Spanish, respondent Ricardo needed employment, and that is the reason why I thought the wise perfect for the job," Joyce Ortiga said.

"More importantly since the were my best friend, I thought I could trust her," she said.

However, one of their household staffers in Mexico later testified in a sworn statement that she had caught Ortigas and Legarda in the act of having sex in June 2009 when she entered the latter's bedroom. Legarda also lived in the same house in Mexico City since.

According to Angie Yuan Jun, the latter's ex-husband Ricardo Jose Legarda, Ortigas and Legarda were romantically involved while Marian was residing here," Joyce Ortigas said.

"Unknown to me, respondent Paupi's unlawful affair with respondent Marian was already known to others people. I did not know that the members of my own household staff were already talking about (the) respondents and how shameless they were about their affair. (The) respondents would even hold hands and kiss each other while they were in the house," she said.

Battered wife

In the affidavit, Joyce Ortigas also described how the marriage started to unravel from its outset days, describing her husband as being "obsessed with dominance and control" with pressure of behaving her from contact with public—at surgery or lodes (dumb, stupid), and showing no qualms about telling her to "close up" in the presence of other people.

"For years of devastating treatment I suffered made me see my self as inferior and unworthy respondent co-respondent Paupi," she said. "On hindsight, she continued, I could not have been so because (though it may be hard to accept) I am cherished wife."

The maid

She also described how she discovered her husband's first affair which he allegedly had with their helper of 20 years, Wilma Baltazana, whom she described as "a mere child maid."

"Respondent Paupi made Wilma his 'sex slave' and engaged in perverted and depraved acts right in our conjugal home, in our den, in the master bedroom and many of all, in the financial bed," Joyce Ortigas said.

"In fact, respondent Paupi was caught by one of our maids in the middle of making Wilma give him a 'blow job' in our wash in closet, and this was apparently not the first time in the other part of the house," she said.

Joyce Ortigas is a member of the prominent Madrigal clan which owns large tracts of land in the south of Metro Manila, including the Madrigal Business Park in Muntinlupa City. The park hosts shopping malls, Ortigas at one point, part of the Madrigal estate.

Ortigas, on the other hand, is a scion of the Ortigas clan which owns Ortigas & Co., developer and owner of the Greenhills Shopping Center, much of the Ortigas central business district, and large tracts of land to the east of Metro Manila.

She requests that to put the side of the respondents in the court, but they had yet to respond as of press time.

ACT OF FAITH A devotee sprays something, perfume maybe, on the face of a replica of the Black Nazarene on Saturday as devotees prepare for a procession. MIKKO RAMOS/INQUIRER

Black Nazarene devotion: Portrait of a nation

From page A1

procession from a safe distance, says the Quezon Bridge, is bound to be mystified and wonder what, honestly, it is all about.

Masterpiece in madness

It's the only one-of its kind in the world, a masterpiece in madness, a canvas of immeasurable colors.

For tomorrow's procession, the Philippine National Police (PNP) has doubled security and assigned a total of 1,600 police, more to patrol the environs.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim has made a reiterated appeal for devotees not to bring arms and caught with intoxicating drinks that they will be apprehended and fined.

"If they allow liquor along the route, this would result in a senseless day," the mayor said.

Lim's stand has drawn the usual mixed instil derision, unabated sarcasm, intoxicated pain laced.

Last Thursday, I got instructions from my original mentor, my big boss here, which said: "Please never leave Manila area" page 1, your entire Nazarene experience, what's the Nazarene to your life."

The deadline was set for Fri. day. I had to beg for a one-day reprieve.

Yesterday I had wanted to talk for at least a month, if not a year, because you can't be expected to complete an epic at the drop of a hat.

Epic tale

Of course, there's nothing truly grand in my affair with the Black Nazarene. It's the scope of its relevance and influence that could more than fill a book.

Like the majority of devotees, I first joined the procession, some ago, in thanksgiving, when I was in my late 20s.

I did not start out alone, but had gone to Quiapo, barefoot, with the other first-timers from our riverside village in Mandaluyong.

I had no idea how to go about it, so I first observed from the sidelines.

There was no available space even from a distance and that, running close to the procession line, would itself prove an ordeal.

It was an anxious wait, but once I had summoned the courage, I tried to move in, inch after excruciating inch, and gingerly pushed my right shoulder through a couple of burning bodies before tugging at the thick rope pulling the Nazarene.

Speaking in was surprisingly easy, but soon enough, the man behind me put his hand on my head and pushed it a little to the left, the better to save me from my self-inflicted harm.

He next reminded me to always keep the rope secure as my shoulder.

Moving in cadence

It was smooth sailing, and then the procession slowed ahead of an incident judging (many) to send the line moving in cadence.

I observed some of those close by whose eyes were closed, some with tears, as they moved slowly, swaying rhythm.

After we had traversed, roughly four, a full block, a huge horde of waving devotees jumped in and swarmed our bank.

There was severe disruption, followed by a shout of stop before everything went haywire.

I tried desperately to hold on, but in an instant, the accumulation carried many. I tried to breathe deep to maintain my balance for the stress had caused airless and definitely deathly.

I had no choice but to raise my left hand in surrender.

Someone instantly pulled me out from the line that by that time had been a smaller choked burning room.

The basics learned

I did learn the basic rules in my first try.

Before that debut, my first asking, I was not that quietly so stoic.

I was not easy to explain at first.

But...more than 30 years after I first participated in the annual Quiapo ritual, I failed in breaking deep the Black Nazarene is anything but wood which floats in procession, whether solemn or pagan.

Anyway, I was to learn that, unlike me, not all of those in my group (from Mandaluyong) do stop in and tugging at the rope pulling the Nazarene the first time they tried.

This would not be the case with one famous Intendancies who were so to become the country's vice president.

The fellow was hoisted outside first into the line, complete with television coverage.

He was a veteran, was even filmed grabbing perilously at the rope, and I was on the side of the procession.

He has never again been seen in Quiapo after that well-publicized debut.

Canvas of despair

Of course, the most tragic sight I had from the procession came in the early 1990s, as the parishioner outside the Galaxy Theater on Recto Avenue where I paused by the figure of a poor man, obviously lifeless, being gently fanned by four men in the wake of the procession.

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Tourism big winner in 'Worlds'

From page A1

time the debates, launched in Scotland in 1981, were held in the Philippines after Ateneo de Manila played host in 1999.

BIMP host University of Toronto in last year's bidding to host the 2011 edition of the Worlds, which is traditionally held during Christmastime.

At the finals held Tuesday night, Australia's Monash University beat Scotland, Ireland and Sydney, reaching high-brow themes on the perspectives: "The dragon tapestry nationalism as the best way to define collective identity."

The Monash team, which lead the proposing side, argued that nationalism was the "best form of identity generation" as contrast to other forms of collective identity that may be, some theorists, such as class and religion.

'Generation's smartest'

The opposing team from Strathclyde, however, countered that "nation divorced from national identity" can better cooperate with other members of the international community. The government, it stressed, "should not have a role in creating the identity" of its citizens.

It was amazing, as most good speakers, they are so clever and so persuasive and talented. That's why we do this: to get to clash ideas with some of the smartest people of one generation," said Sarah Golder, a member of the winning tandem from Monash.

Golder's teammate, Ilona Lyas, noted how the United Worlds had been providing a venue for top students from around the world to meet and exchange ideas.

Cross-cultural exchange

"It's just an amazing opportunity for cross-cultural exchange. You meet some of the smartest people from all over the world with so many amazing insights to offer, and it's a brilliant event and I really thank the Philippines should continue to support debating," Lyas said.

Miss Philippines incorporates community service in the debates, mostly in the category for countries that have English as their second language. These were the University of the Philippines (Diliman, Manila and Visayas campuses), Xavier University, De La Salle College of St. Benilde, Ateneo de Manila, De La Salle University, Lyceum of the Philippines, and Mapua Institute of Technology.

Extended stays

"It has been held in Ireland, Turkey and Botswana. Now it's in Asia. So I think many of the debaters wanted to experience Christmas in a tropical country that's why many of them came a few days earlier and some are staying for a few more days to be able to see the Philippines," said La Salle Bachelor Bernard Oris, chair of the DLSU Communication committee.

Local street food

Indeed, after nine days of intellectual sparring, the participants have since fanned out to soak in the sights and sounds, the fiesta colors and flavors the host country had to offer, from the tourists' Manila Bay sunset to exotic delicacies on the streets.

"I really love shopping in Manila; it has so many stores that we don't have. And I love the weather and the food. Last night people were calling us many Filipino street foods like the duck egg (or balut, usually drunk midnight). I tried a little bit but I couldn't," said Golder, a dual-degree student taking up Arts and Law at Monash.

"Everything was run professionally. It's been fantastic. I love it, the people are so friendly, it's been very welcoming," added his teammate Lyas, speaking to reporters after the duo was declared this year's WUDC champions.

The last debate's stop in the capital Golder said he was heading for the famous island resort of Boracay for a four-day break. Some participants from San Pedro University of Quezon Land also had plans to visit the island and another favorite beach destination, Palawan.

Several students also checked out rural Tagaytay during a lull in the competition schedule on New Year's Day.

Booked in 90 seconds

Pro-Bel executive chair Ellen Tordesillas actually always looks forward to the WUDC," Oris added.

"The DOT reminders that just within this week, the Philippines will get P400 million just from the delegates, not including revenue during their stay[] before and after. So I think they want to see the country also," said Oris, who is also vice chancellor for La Salian Mission and alumni formation.

Organizers had reserved approximately 60 rooms at the Dusit Thani Manila for the delegates' official hotel to help participants to their travel plans, he added. The actual count of those already reserved their families to come over because they love the weather," he said.

"We wanted to show them that we are a hospitable and warm people. And our Lyceum delegate told me "you're so friendly here, it's fantastic." That's a quote," Oris told the Inquirer.

Pinoy heads US medical group helping poor in 120 countries

From page A1

He currently oversees a mission that was initiated by Imee Aquino in Detroit for orphans of the Ruwan Pai 50 years ago. Apart from his organizing skills, a high sense of economics, and a level of discipline instilled at home, Asuncion believes his early class encounters with poverty in the provinces has prepared him well for the job.

"Unabridged always said, 'You help the rich and the poor because God loves them,'" he said, citing the source of his inspiration.

He was introduced into the calling through his previous work in his home province.

He first attempt to get a job—as a company nurse at Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils Inc. (CCBPI) in the City of San Fernando—was a failure. But he returned to the company and joined its sales force after he finished a course in commerce. To earn the degree, he worked as a coast interpreter during the day and attended classes at night.

It was a provision of the CCBPI employees' union that Asuncion first got to know the WMRI, when he coordinated a medical mission with the group in 1986. When the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo devastated Pampanga and the rest of Central Luzon in 1991, Asuncion wrote WMRI to ask help for evacuees and other Pampanga residents.

Then WMRI president Carolyn Gongwin sent a nurse to the United States and coordinate dispensing of relief supplies for victims of the disaster. Gongwin's message came with an assurance: "We will help your people," Asuncion recalled.

Then a bachelor at 30, Asuncion left the Philippines in 1991 on a US visa granted through the request of WMRI.

"The moment I saw the [WMRI] building in Detroit, I felt the spirit of giving. So I volunteered while the dispensary was being arranged," Asuncion said.

He then began putting his nursing background to good use, first by composing codes in the nurses' station and get more responses were kept. He worked things out mostly and started events, the way he was taught as a boy by his mother, a public school teacher, and by his father, a carpenter.

WMRI directors saw what he did and were impressed, ordering Gongwin to hire Asuncion on the spot.

Favor from God

"I discovered and realized this is the organization that will give me a chance to reach out to others. When God is favoring you as a person, you are destined for something," said Asuncion, who was born in Mayhaligi parents.

He says he was fortunate to have worked with Aubrey Ilo, who was then 85 years old.

Ilo[] died shortly at age 101. Asuncion was enrolled, donating her body for medical science studies at the University of Michigan, he said.

In 1994, Asuncion was designated WMRI's director for international programs. Six months later, he was assigned to be its director for operations. He started operating offices by 17 years he agreed to be interim president for only a year in 2010.

Asuncion expanded WMRI services in 12 US states to provide help in homeless and hungry Americans. He also reorganized the board, taking in more health professionals.

The sixth his leadership, the number of volunteers rose to 1,770 through the ups with universities. The year, WMRI seeks to get more donors and number of volunteers value being sure to deliver on promises—and ultimately save more lives.

No more excuses; Geohazard maps soon in the Internet

By TJ Burgonio

THERE'LL be no more excuses.

They can't make the claim of a mouse, you'll be able to access government geohazard maps and tell if you should move because your village lies within a danger zone.

The Environment Secretary Joe Ferrer Dangar (RMC) has agreed to upload on its website, www.mgb.gov.ph, the geohazard maps of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) for everyone to see and heed, and avoid becoming a statistic in an unavoidable disaster, officials said yesterday.

This will be launched before the end of the month, MGB Director Leo Jasareno said.

"We just want to raise the awareness of everyone to disasters such as floods and landslides. We want to reach out to the LGUs and the people. We want to maximize the use of the information to the lowest unit of society given the technology," Jasareno said in a phone interview.

Joint research group

The DENR is a joint research organization that promotes environmental sustainability and social justice through the integration of science, methodologies and social processes.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, MSI-CIRS and DENR Hours have been by today's digital copies of the maps and agreed to upload them on their websites, according to Jasareno.

In the aftermath of last Thursday's landslide in Compostela Valley that killed at least 27 people and the Oct. 16 flash flood and landslide in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities that left more than 1,200 dead, the son, or session, of the geohazard maps has come to the fore more.

The issue is not whether the local government units ignored the maps, but rather how they heeded the MGB's recommendation to move residents away from unsuitable slopes, river banks and waterways, Jasareno said.

"It was partially implemented. They formed the evacuation of people from danger areas, but after some time the people went back," he said of Barangay Basak, where the landslide occurred in Compostela Valley. "If the maps were followed, we would not have had casualties."

Downloadable

On geohazard maps, colors coded national hazards—landslides, floods and flash floods—are superimposed on topographic maps of every area of the Philippines, from the provincial down to the last barangay, said Jasareno.

"You can access it anywhere as long as you have an Internet connection. It's viewable, printable and downloadable for free," he said. "Whether you're staying, you can tell which hazards your barangay is susceptible to."

So there won't be any more excuses for public officials and residents to ignore the maps and to relocate to safer areas, he said.

The geohazard maps, which range 60 gigabytes and cover 700 cities, have a "high resolution" unlike the maps currently posted on the MGB website, www.mgb.gov.ph, Jasareno said.

The maps would come in handy in weather forecasts. TV or radio news could flash the geohazard maps of provinces, towns and barangays that are in the path of a storm and are vulnerable to landslides or floods, and promptly warn the people, he said.

"They can be used interactively," he added.

Lifesavers

The maps have a scale of 1:10,000 (1 cm on the map corresponds to 100 meters on the ground). The MGB is doing a remapping to magnify it more, to a scale of 1 to 10,000 (1 cm to 100 meters on the ground), he said.

Jasareno said the maps were "lifesavers" but they're only effective if they're adopted on the ground.

"Our maps are straightforward, scientific and technical. But beyond the maps are the social issues that local officials have to deal with. They have to relocate hundreds of people. We can make recommendations but these require resources," he conceded.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Deadly rush

IT WAS an order that ultimately came far too late. On Jan. 6, Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo ordered the forced evacuation of people still living in the mining areas in Barangay Napnapan, Pantukan, Compostela Valley after a landslide killed at least 22 people Thursday.

The killing must come nothing down the mountainside to the middle of the night, swallowing up entire lines of theories and engulfing men, women and children as they slept. In the morning, the entire side of the mountain looked as if a giant hand had smoothed over where people used to live, as if they had never been there. Rescue workers and volunteers swarmed the area, hoping to find survivors buried in the mud, but hope vanished along with the dawn. Like their best efforts, the bulldozers used there bear to make headway up the mountainside only to fall back and then try again in their Sisyphus-like efforts.

EDITORIAL

One terrifying thing about the natural disaster is that it has happened again and again. In May 2009, some 27 lives were lost to yet another landslide in Barangay Magnagoan. Just a month ago, in December 2011, five people died in Barangay Dividual in Monkayo town. A few months before that, in August 2011, three people died in New Bataan town, while in April, 15 people were killed in a landslide in Barangay Kingking. Each time, the local government instituted measures to hopefully prevent these deaths from happening again—but the efforts always proved to be not enough.

As horrible as it sounds, a great deal of the blame still falls on the residents in this part of Compostela Valley. The majority of them aren't long-time dwellers—instead, they are supposed miners, coming to the area because of the chance to mine gold in the valley. They had come with nothing and plunged themselves into an almost fanatical quest for gold in the dangerous mountain area. When the landslides struck, the miners and their families were squarely in the path of the devastation.

Yet they remained. When the local government showed them away, they came back and built more. They removed that at least here, even at the face of daily danger, they had a chance to earn some kind of living. To leave away was to give up any chance of hitting it big with the gold rush. The miners kept clinging to a grim tradition: if it's your time to go, no matter where you are, it's your time to go. So here they would stay, no matter how much the government officials paraded with them. Even now, with the death toll rising and rescue efforts proceeding, the surviving miners seem to just be waiting to go back to their digging for gold near the landslides's core—like before.

Except this time, Malacañang is taking a hard stance. Along with the forced evacuations being implemented with the help of the Philippine Army, President Aquino is determined to find out if local officials did not do enough to save Pantukan's town from nature's fury.

"The responsibility of evacuating or doing a forced evacuation is with the local government officials. But, having this thing happen, this is totally unacceptable," presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told reporters. "You are elected to office to provide service in all times and that includes ensuring the safety of your constituents."

Perhaps the most terrifying thing about the disaster is that it will almost surely happen again—unless something serious is done to prevent it. The local government has the police power to force the miners to abandon the area in the face of possible landslides. But perhaps next time, it would actually force all of them to leave, instead of leaving the stubborn among the miners to remain and place themselves in the path of more devastation. Elected officials are required to remove their constituents in imminent danger, even if those same constituents don't want to go.

Robredo's evacuation order also came with the foreknowledge that the mining wounds spider-webbing inside the mountain. Perhaps nothing but an absolute order to cease mining in the area will prevent another tragedy from happening. There are many other ways government can help the miners, such as bolstering livelihood projects or providing new jobs. Now, perhaps the local government will make them go before the rains threaten again. Now, perhaps the residents will leave when told to do so. Now, perhaps the order to leave won't come too late.

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Between law and politics

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

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AT BIG other fans is the line between law and politics most blurred than when Congress holds impeachment proceedings. Grasps called "articles of impeachment" are filed. Congressmen don the role of prosecutors, and senators constitute themselves as a jury. They conduct a trial where evidence is presented, witnesses called, and witnesses are summoned and questioned. At the end of the process, a judgment of guilt or innocence is handed down. Such events normally belong to the legal arena. So, why is a political body like Congress tasked into a manner-of?

The simple answer is that that is what the Constitution mandates. The power to impeach is given to the elected representatives of the people as part of the balancing of the powers of the different branches of government. In this land, where the process originated, the charges that were brought against impeachable officials varied widely. According to the constitutional scholar Jurist Joseph Story, "Lord chancellors and judges and other magistrates have not only been impeached for bribery and acting grossly contrary to the duties of their office, but for misleading the sovereign by corrupt or unsound opinions; and for attempts to subvert the fundamental laws and introduce arbitrary power."

Although it takes in the trappings of a courtroom trial, impeachment remains a distinctly political process. It is not for the subject of impeachment as a court always possible to criminal offenses. US President Andrew Johnson was impeached because of his very own policy differences with Congress. In contrast, federal judge Harry Claiborne was first convicted by a criminal court for tax evasion and was already in jail, before he was removed by impeachment for bringing disrepute to the judiciary.

Unlike passive jurors in a courtroom, senators-judges can ask questions during an impeachment trial. In a regular court, they can overturn a ruling of the presiding officer. They are not required to insulate themselves from public opinion. In the United States, from which many of our procedures are borrowed, they are not even banned from publicly discussing the case. Most important, unlike in a court of law, senator-judges are not required to demonstrate guilt "beyond reasonable doubt."

But, to say that impeachment is a political process does not at all mean that it may be conducted without regard for generally accepted rules of evidence. The entire process must manifest fairness for it to be considered legitimate. What this means is that the senator-judges must be able to offer not just an adequate justification for their final decision but also a credible account of the conduct of the whole trial itself.

The framers of the 1987 Constitution were fully aware of the risks entailed when politicians play the role of judges. Alexander Hamilton wrote: "There will always be the greatest danger that the decision (in impeach) will be regulated more by the comparative strength of the parties than by the real demonstrations of innocence or guilt." (Cited in Lindorff and Globalsky, The Law of Impeachment, 2006) This fear was reinforced during the impeachment of President Bill Clinton in 1998-1999 for perjury and obstruction of justice, following from the Lewinsky sex scandal. All 45 Republican senators voted to convict him, but not one Democrat joined them. In a divided US Senate consisting of 100 members, those numbers were not enough to stop Clinton's ouster.

The requirement of a two-thirds super-majority to convict is not easy to meet. It is probably the most important safeguard against the danger of impeachment being used for narrow partisan ends. If it were the real thrill would be to hear, up that, for some officials facing impeachment, resignation might be the better part of valor. This is how Richard Nixon saw it when he gave up the presidency in 1974 to the wake of damaging revelations concerning the Watergate scandal. His resignation came before the House judiciary committee could submit its report.

Whether impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona will step down from the high court even before the trial begins, or will opt to go through the rigors of a trial, is the question everyone is asking. The prosecution is angling for a resignation, in our view given from the way it is publicly rising its evidence ahead of the trial. Corona, on the other hand, has said he is ready to face his accusers and prove his innocence. But behind all this posturing is the reality that in the end the matter will be settled by a simple head count. The prosecution needs the support of at least 16 senator-judges to convict a respondent. That means even if only a minority of eight chooses to acquit Justice Corona will remain chief justice. There is no appeal to what he has done. Decisions can be appealed. That is the law.

Politics and law intermesh with our needs as in the most unpredictable ways, even as they remain separate and interlocutors on issues. Politics provides the means by which society makes collective value-laden decisions. And one such decision is the removal of top officials who have betrayed the public trust. On the other hand, the purpose of law is to establish people's expectations of what is permitted and what is not. Though political in nature, the power to impeach is regulated by law.

Even this means that the courts may intervene when there are disagreements on the meaning of impeachment rules and procedures? The urge to do so is always there. But the impulse rules that they must not, in deference to the separation of powers.

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The gift

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

* * *

THE STORY is told about a family that was shopping in an electronics store during Christmas. When asked what they got, "iPod," said the daughter. "iPhone," said her elder daughter. "iPad," said the wife. "Nothing, I said!" said the husband.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 2, 1-12) we hear of the Magi from the East bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to do homage to the newborn King of the Jews. Their presence at Jesus' birth was a statement that Jesus was not only God's gift to Israel but to the whole world. In other words, Jesus was not meant to be an exclusive gift. Not a gift to be shared.

* * *

Last Christmas many of us gave and received gifts. Indeed, what would Christmas be without our traditional exchange of gifts? However, in the process of giving and receiving gifts we did think, each other. I hope we did not forget the greatest gift of all—Jesus Himself—and the Giver of the gift, our loving Father. Let us make sure for that we did not throw away along with the wrappers the main reason for Christmas.

* * *

Today, is the feast of the Epiphany, the **revelation of Jesus to the nations.** Epiphany symbols us to share, and to become missionaries of and for the Light. Let us become like burning candles that give light. Let us ask ourselves today: What can I share for the Lord this rest of my life?

* * *

Speaking of light, we had lots of that, for New Year's Eve. Lots of noise and smoke too! Sharing the Light of Christ need not be like that. When we share Jesus in silence, we do not need fireworks and/or we do not need lots of noise and smoke too. In its rare context, during Christ's light is still that of reflecting the gentle presence of a loving God because we

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ourselves have quiet moments with Him in the candle glow. Spreading Christ's light is not so much about "others" or "techniques." It is all about being real and sharing joyfully what we really treasure and believe.

* * *

And speaking of fireworks, I really wish we had better ways to welcome the New Year. Fireworks are not only expensive. They are dangerous and unhealthy as well. Please, remember, we don't torture God both by fireworks but by bad words!

* * *

We are after "search diligently for the child." May we continue to be open to "God's revelation at any moment of our lives. It's not as we have God, and we have our ways of dealing with Him or even manipulating Him, and that is! No, that can't! What we have are two contradictory acts: our faith and love symbolized with our expressions of our faith, is a sign that we are no longer diligent or have allegedly stopped searching for the Child.

* * *

Last week, I had a talk with a 30-year-old executive regarding his crisis of faith. He felt that he could not connect anymore with the God of his childhood and youth, and with the Church. He is now questioning a lot of things about his faith. As I listened to him, I couldn't help but ask: How many people did his crisis and loss of faith start? Through the same situations? Thank God for his sincerity and openness. All I could tell him was just to be the instant to himself and to God that

* * *

he could bring him back to the source, perhaps.

* * *

Let me take this opportunity to thank the one/s I got the gift from/by and Nicole Emmanuel put it so beautifully: "Beauty isn't always blood. It's the people in your life who want you to thrive, who accept you for what you are, who would do anything to make you smile, and who love you no matter what."

* * *

A moment with the Lord

Lord, you are our greatest gift. Help us to share you with a world that needs hope, peace, wholeness and holiness. Amen.

More political than legal

MANY COMMENTATORS and analysts believe and profess that impeachment is a legal and judicial matter decided mainly by strict legalisms. By its nature however, impeachment belongs more to the people than to lawyers...more to public wisdom than to legalisms. As impeachment proceedings is not generic but its own unique genre, and a sequel to politics.

Non-judicial tribunals. True, the Constitution lays down the parameters of impeachment in unmistakable legal language. True also, it limits impeachment only to the highest officials who cannot be touched by the supreme court of justice, their glaise. So similarly unmistakable legalese, it provides the grounds for and the general procedure by which impeachment cases are to be initiated, filed and decided, thereby giving the false impression that impeachment is the lawyers' domain.

Soon, however, the Constitution lodged the power to initiate and to decide impeachment cases in non-judicial tribunals composed mostly of non-lawyers and non-jurists. Impeachment is exclusively initiated by the House of Representatives, not by regular prosecution agencies, like the Department of Justice or the Office of the Ombudsman. It is solely tried and decided by the Senate, not by courts of justice.

If impeachment were mainly a legal matter, then the powers to try and decide should have been given to the Supreme Court or to some other body composed of jurists or lawyers who must not only be trained in the labyrinths of law but at least 15 years but also—to quote the Constitution—be "personally of proven competence, integrity, probity and independence," qualities required of competent courts' justices.

Ultimate test. To stress, the power to initiate impeachment cases has been given to the House of Representatives, while the power to try and to decide has been granted to the Senate. Both bodies are composed mostly of humans who—despite their varied education, culture and social status...had been chosen by our people to be their di-

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Pangalangan

rectors to represent laws and to oust high officials who have become unworthy of their trust.

Legislators are thus expected to discharge their duties as our people's trustees, not as pseudo-lawyers. When they initiate or decide impeachment cases, they carry the public trust first and foremost. They look at impeachment cases not through the prisms of strict legalism (which many of them do not and are not required to possess), but through those more known to the ordinary people—open to them.

In the end, the limits not of an impeachment is policy-oriented: with the people and the nation the better served by retaining or by ousting impeached officials? Honest and basic, common and passion there will be, but the decision of the people's elder peers will always be based on their sense of what is advantageous and beneficial to the country. They bear the people's aspirations and ambitions; their pains and frustrations; their sense of right and wrong. And they will act accordingly in that instinctive of right and wrong.

In short, impeachment must be legal in its provisions but it is political in its substance; it they draw a veneers of ordinariness but it has an embedded core of public wisdom. It may be couched in tabulistic legalese, but its essence is encapsulated in simple common sense.

Weak cases. The one glaring case in examples to show that impeachment belongs to the people, not to lawyers. First, unlike judicial trials, impeachment hearings are open to mass media, particularly to live television and radio coverage. The result: the truth is made manifest in the unfolding and unfocusing evidence even more liberal.

Because of this openness, people inevitably become an integral part of an impeachment trial. The people's evaluation of what they see and hear during the trial solidifies into public opinion that is caught by poll watchers.

Inevitably, the people ignore this public sense of an impeachment trial. When the search for truth is blocked by unsupportable legalities or technicalities, our people feel disenchanted and tend to settle the dispute with the power of crowds. This was what happened when the first one ordered an unchained grounds, to open the impeachment trial of then Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Second, because also of the public nature of impeachment, the private life of impeached officials is opened to searching public scrutiny. The scrutiny extends to their spouses, children, parents and siblings, a number of which are routinely combed for hidden debts, ills and crimes. Internet, texts, tweets and other social media become purveyors of supposed wrongdoings.

To protect her loved ones, Merceditas Gutierrez—after exposing the embezzlement case against her husband Jinggoy, to spare herself and her family of the misery of public scrutiny.

Third, the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. was blocked by a Supreme Court decision by a majority of Supreme Court justices from instituting an impeachment complaint in the Senate. The House, after some hesitancy, blinked and retreated. There was no public upheaval over this legal block because Chief Justice Davide—still glowing from his stellar performance in the Estrada impeachment trial—was perceived by our people as their most trusted official. Moreover, the Supreme Court enjoyed very high public approval ratings, much higher than the House.

The capitalism between the desk that impeachment is a political, more than a legal, exercise.

(Comment: to thefactsspeakgmail.com; facebook.com)

Second-hand haunting

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I FINALLY caught one of the three Manila Film Festival entries on its last few days, and it happens to be the horror-thriller "Segunda Mano." It's been sort of a blind between me and my 16-year-daughter-in-law Trish to watch local horror movies together, and to share the old-year (or start the new one), we chose the Kris Aquino-Jing dong Barcia entry.

I was quite startled when we entered the movie house and found it full, so much so that we found ourselves in the middle section. We'd thought that this being the closing weekend, the crowds would have thinned somewhat. But at the nearby theaters where the top-earning film, a mashup of past local offers with even now called "Enteng ng Ina Mo" was showing, the lines were still long, and we figured we'd had to return for the last show. My son chose to watch "Gagpuin Ating Gabunga Story," which scored the award for best picture, and despite its "artsy" appearance, the film still drew a respectable crowd. Apparently, the festival's mix of films—a few that were art-film promising, or else the absence of competition from any Hollywood production made for a captive audience. But then again, with so many entertainment options from cable TV to DVDs, iPads to iPods, people still find and good reasons to watch local movies, right?

Anyway, "Segunda Mano" proved to be worth the P180 premium ticket price for the MMFF entries. Starred in Maalala's fiery Aquino feelings of inadequacy and insecurity as the wife who never tells the tale of her haunting by the ghost of her friend's missing wife. A jaw-strand designer hand bag and a dress from an ukay-ukay (used goods) shop under the seller's spirit, while hanging behind closet to reveal the secret of her missing wife's mysterious disappearance as well as that of her younger sister, long missing and presumed dead.

Haunting. Damien plays against type as Jean, husband of the missing Marbelle (Angelica Panganiban) and boyfriend of Mabel. He faces the acting challenge of seeming to be kind and charming when he first meets Mabel, then re-learning his traumatized and tortured soul when he realizes Mabel is about to leave him.

CLOSE on the heels of the all-local MMFF fare is a slew of Hollywood productions. Several of whether "Mon Jack Holmes: A Game of Shadows," the second of what is anticipated to be another franchise-loosely, very loosely based on the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Robert Downey Jr plays the legendary sleuth with a strong element of physicality and comedy, although the script has him "relieving" clues and devising plans without the audience realizing it. I enjoyed elements of this latest version of the hottest franchise, a the friendship and rivalry between the detective and his "sidekick," Dr. John Watson, although as played by Jude Law, Watson is more of a partner than sidekick.

Introduced by the lovely Guy Ritchie, the duo of Holmes and Watson battle through a number of adventures despite Watson's impending and ruinously expensive honeymoon and the death of Holmes' arch-rival and presumed true nemesis Irene Adler (Rachel McAdams in a fairly long cameo). In his first outing directing the beloved Holmes franchise, Ritchie delivers a number of thrills and chills and giggles. Purveyor of these are slow-motion dream sequences of Holmes' thinking process (as well as of Professor Moriarty Holmes' archenemy), which he believes this second installment, to greater effect.

The film is also a visual treat, with the final scene of the last of the Holmes books by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: the confrontation between Holmes and Moriarty (David Harris) on a ledge in Switzerland where both fall, presumably to their deaths. But we will the kind to find out whether the producers in last minute decision for the last of Holmes' adventures.

FADING audiences. Should make the effort to read the original novels if only to appreciate how the Sherlock Holmes character was conceived. The books display a more cerebral detective, who relies on an uncanny eye for the telling clues rather than physical heroism-scenes which are the staple of action movies.

But the Holmes as interpreted by Downey is far more human and humorous, accessible in his weaknesses and wonderful in comforts his dependence on "illusions," and known for legendary fits of the cornered and physical awakenings. And there is the mysterious provided by a band of gypsies led by Madame Simza (Hendrik) police Simon Rapaco who originated the role of "The Lord Blackwood in "Harper Voices"), joining Holmes and Watson as they chase the nefarious Moriarty through most of Europe.

If you're in search of a good romp and head-blinking letters, then "A Game of Shadows" is just the ticket. No horror way to usher in a year of adventures!

South Korea's political springtime

WORLD VIEW

Lee Byung-chul

SEOUL—THE ascension to power of the pudgy 29-year-old Kim Jong-un in North Korea has produced headlines around the world, but the most important new leadership forming young people and politics is taking place in the South. There young voters are becoming angrier, more politically active, and increasingly hostile to the old establishment parties. This demographic challenge to South Korea's status quo suggests a "liberal" awakening that would compare with the country's political landscape.

The election last autumn of the activist Park Won-soon as mayor of Seoul symbolized the growing strength of the youth vote, which took the ruling Grand National Party completely by surprise. Young people mobilized themselves spontaneously using all the tools of social networking and leader's communications, so that not only voters their own age, but countless others empowered with South Korea's rigidity and hardened opportunities.

The sudden surge in young voters has called into question the long-presumed victory of the governing GNP's likely candidate, Park Geun-hye, in the presidential election due to be held in December. Indeed, many political analysts now suggest that a new political map, perhaps even after a reality is one of the GNP's slightly mainstreamed + cyber attack on the National Election Commission's website to prevent voting rotten from getting to the polls.

While these questions are legitimate, politicians were quick to point out that GNP could collapse sooner than the younger and poverty-stricken South Korea, Park Geun-hye, as a male woman in South Korean politics, has made it clear that she will not abandon the GNP. Neither is Park Geun-hye's brother. Park became the GNP's interim leader last month.

In Park's eyes, abandoning the GNP simply because other party's disgusting supporters would show her to be lacking in principles and conscience. Therefore, it would not be surprising if she probably the main reason why the continues to lead various opinion polls. Nevertheless, recent polls show that a majority of voters distrust the in-

cumbent government and the ruling party.

Indeed, Ahn Cheol-soo, a successful entrepreneur turned professor of computer science at Seoul National University and the main backer of the city's new mayor, has now ranked South Korean politics by dropping broad hints that he might become a presidential candidate. Ahn has already become a lightning rod for all of the country's major and anti-President Lee Myung-bak forces, attracting young people as well.

Ahn's most obvious merits are his personal history of overcoming severe challenges and his modest demeanor. His signature commercial achievement—the development of anti-virus software—lends him immensely wealthy. In addition to give away a large portion of his fortune but made him a conventional hero.

More importantly, Ahn knows how to talk to people who see themselves in South Korea's rigid economic and business environment, particularly South Korean youth. He also contrasts equanimity of the governing powers in social networking by politicians. Although the 40-year-old professor remains formally uncommitted to running for office, his frankness and tolerance and his ability to communicate a clear political message of the need for fundamental change. Surely in South Korea's democracy has it candidate's personality played so importance role.

Ahn's economic beliefs, formed mainly by his experience as a CEO fighting against the entrenched power of South Korea's chaebol (conglomerates), are also conventionally progressive. Ahn's unfinished + debate on both the right and the left about whether the chaebol are still a pole of leading the country's economy effectively

in an era of growing inequality and joblessness. Ahn's criticism of the chaebol + both smart economists and smart politics. Economically-balanced youth welcome Ahn with hand shown wherever he appears, because he expresses their concern that the chaebol are stifling non-competitive small- and medium-sized jobs.

One big obstacle that Ahn will face if he decides to run is the need to organize a political party, or else to forge a coalition among South Korea's fractured opposition parties. Neither is an easy task, and the chaebol + dominance + established by Japan's Democratic Party since it debeing the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party may make some South Korean voters reluctant to abandon the familiar and tried-and-true GNP. But despite these hurdles, it is difficult to imagine that Ahn would stand aside the April while voters demand his bold + initiative.

The new centrist that Ahn will join to the fray is not good news for the already-unstable GNC opposition. Indeed, the rise of this new "upstart" arises on a popular television talk show on July 3, the called Ahn "a very popular professor with young people." Indeed, while the acknowledged "liberal" voters were expected to "confront" against the established parties, the supposedly aligned them to do so through a series of lectures called "South Concert."

Photo On "Ice Princess," as Park is nicknamed, will undoubtedly remain her own course, more than 20 million South Koreans now access Twitter or Facebook on their cell phones, and follow politics on them. These are new or disenchanted voters. Even their vote in the April parliamentary elections could be decisive, and these fellow citizens follow their lead...will determine whether South Korea has its new political spring.

Project Syndicate

Lee Byung-chul, formerly on the national security planning staff for Presidents Kim Young-sam and Kim Dae-jung, is a senior fellow at the Institute for Peace and Cooperation, Seoul.

Waiting places

THE SETTING: a sleepy Alfonsus. Sometimes it is a field in the corner of the valley. The sky is blue. The clouds are fat. The ground is spread with sand the color of melting dates, late ice cream. There are no trees or grass or lines of children's laundry. This is what it is left: dry, ground, cliff and an old man in a blue striped shirt looking at where his son's home used to stand.

Sometimes it is a school with walls painted with mud. The principal is running the students, but the numbers never much. Two dead, the rest, the missing. He is not sure, and neither are the parents.

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

Sometimes it is a stretch of sand, where there used to be a farm. The man has only said brother and grandmother and children, and a building for the bodies. They found one child near the house where the man stayed the night of the storm after he decided to die, and was dragged out of the water bleeding by neighbors. He was holding two of his babies, and then suddenly they were gone. At first he answered what asked. Now he is quiet, and his neighbors are afraid.

The places change, the stories are the same. There are pictures it frames the size of a child's smile. There are the stories, the same ones, again and again. What he said last. What she wore. She is missing, they say, my child is missing. Papa is missing, wait, just wait.

The people in a world of children sing in flamingo. Bigan. I heard Clint Thursday, in the early afternoon. I had a camera and a microphone and maybe that was why they can to gain into the line. It was a group of small boys singing, in the school gym of the Bigan City East High School. Their had lost, but remain, another as smile.

They sing it on the streets, laughing, and they will sing it for anyone who asks. It is a happy hate, using like a nursery rhyme, and the others join in and repeat.

Marawing pupo sa dagat, no hemalanag, dahil may mga tao, na di malinaw. There are many dead in the sea, floating. Because there are people whose bodies were never retrieved.

There is a village in Hinapinon, Bigan, where the dogs still lie in leaves, and those who have been there before know that when they step on the logs, they are walking on the dead. The locations change by the week. Now it is a suburb in Marabulig, where the piles of shoes are used to point to walls. Then it is Cagayan, where one house remains standing at the highest point of a mountain, where people have climbed to escape the waters, and were cannot remember the way down. Now it is the 'dead' of Compostela Valley, where a landslide buried 17 just as South Manilatan was finding its feet.

I'll tell you a story about a mother I met. Her name is Reynelda Alforte, school principal of Bigan East, and every day she looks at the children in her classroom and sees the gaps. Some of her students have lost everything, parents, brothers, sisters. Some of her teachers lost the same. Every family has five, six, seven children. Some have been given sons, to share with other families. She shakes her head, says a family needs its private memories. What if Maria spreads, her fingers, and the world is gone?

On the day after the storm, she rode a motorcycle through the mud, but the classroom wouldn't open. Because there was water and mud inside. She laughs too, says some students have told her they are grateful for the storm, because they've never eaten cereal and lechon.

Her school was built beside a dump. There are shanties there now, with salvaged Christmas trees and some that pose as McDonald's billboards. For years after the school was built her students were made to clean because of the stench. They planted flowers and trees, painted walls green, and inside the school, fencing was constructed. It is, of course, a dike, a tall concrete wall that was meant to keep trouble at the bottom, with just a thick layer of mud. The school records say four, and the cause as explosive fuel, rain but food been will get lucky this year because everyone will graduate with a clean slate.

There is a freshman in her school named Rosalyn, and he wants to be a doctor. He is a happy boy, because there is a soccer-ball, and mama and papa are alive. There is mud under his fingernails and his shirt is a donation from another small boy in Manila. Grandma is missing, but his brothers are alive.

This is not a story about counting the dead, because one is too many, and not a story about the 10,000 missing in Compostela Valley. This is a story about hope, whenever it can be found, even if it means a pug in Bigan named Sochi Barrie, who survived the Christmas storm by cross-hug terrified on a church altar. It is about a girl who shot Malakanyang down a tree clinging to a slab of wood, and about a father looking for his son in the rites, who took home instead a small boy with Nanding eyes. It is about Ou-Jaye, the architect and staff from the University of the Philippines Diliman who decided to buy Christmas lunch for the families of Maralulig.

In Hinapinon, Bigan this is what is left: the ground, dirt, an old man in a blue striped shirt looking at where his son's home used to stand. Beside him is a boy whose eyes no longer bleed, and a small girl who shows pictures of the trees in the sea.

Republic of the Philippines
City of Davao
Barangay Talomo

OFFICE OF THE PUNONG BARANGAY

"AWARD"

Pursuant to Brgy. Ordinance No. 2012-01 Series of 2012 and Resolution No. 2012-01 Series of 2012 of the Sangguniang Barangay of Talomo, Davao City, the Punong Barangay of Talomo, Davao City hereby confers the "AWARD" to

Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio

for her outstanding performance in the Barangay Development Program of Talomo, Davao City.

Given this 12th day of January 2012 at Talomo, Davao City, Philippines.

ATTESTED:

Punong Barangay

Sangguniang Barangay Members

Barangay Secretary

Barangay Treasurer

Many thanks to Gil Galvez, Dingga Gorilla, Elsa Hernandez, John Israelmas, the Philippine Red Cross and Rappler.com. Volunteers be found at: http://bit.ly/XOPQ

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: [illegible]
Editor Joan N. Sacriñonta Jr.

ASIA NEWS NETWORK (ANN) magazine's list for 2011 was a mix of those who made a difference positively and negatively in society. Regardless of their contribution—whether for the greater good or otherwise—their lives provided the public precious lessons. *AsiaNews'* Asian of the Year was Chinese artist and dissident Ai Weiwei, who was recognized for raising important issues in China to the general public through his art and blog at the risk of his own life.

Those who made it to the short list were India's Anna Hazare, Thailand's Yingluck Shinawatra, Burma's Thein Sein, Taiwan's Tsai Ingwen, Bhutan's Queen Jetsun Pema and Malaysia's Tony Fernandes.

The magazine's Asian Heroes were Japan's Fukushima 50, who symbolized the heroism and nameless victims of the nuclear meltdown following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

On its blacklist were Cambodia's Nuon Chea of the Khmer Rouge and former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Their stories were a combination of triumph and downfall, of hope and despair.

ANN is a group of 21 newspapers, including the Philippine Daily Inquirer, in 18 countries.

Asian OF THE Year

Ai Weiwei

Provocateur

AI WEIWEI: is recognized for raising important issues in China to the general public through his art and blog at the risk of his own life.

AT 24, Ai Weiwei left China for New York to escape from his homeland's repression.

At an early age, Ai knew of what may befall an individual going against China's right-hand Communist Party. His father, Ai Qing, was a poet who was demonized during the Anti-Rightist Movement and sent to a labor camp in Xinjiang.

By the young Ai stayed in New York starting 1981. For 12 years, he slowly established himself among a few prominent contemporary Asian artists in The West.

In 1993, he returned home to pay his last respects to his sick father. Back in his homeland, Ai's art started to take root and he helped establish the Beijing East Village for experimental artists. He was interested in design and eventually put up the Beijing Fake Cultural Development Ltd.

This was the company that got him into trouble early in 2011 when the Chinese government accused him of avoiding the payment of taxes worth 15 million yuan (US$2.4 million).

Ai was detained for 81 days and was not allowed to see his family or talk to lawyers. His supporters, meanwhile, offered help, some shipping money on the walls of his studio in the north of Beijing.

Forensic auditing Ai's returns soon followed; on China's dissent, art museums in Europe and the United States, and on the social media network.

The Internet and social media have in fact become Ai's platform in expressing himself even though he was not familiar with the technology when he first started as a blogger. But over time, he started to post provocative messages.

In 2008, he investigated the Sichuan earthquake that killed more than 69,000 people. He included information from netizens on the names and number of schoolchildren who died in the disaster. He investigations provoked the authorities and his blog was shut down. That was when he turned to Twitter. He earned more than 117,000 followers in a year and a half. He tweeted in Mandarin and in an interview with Time, he noted that social media had changed the political landscape and had given a voice to ordinary people.

In one of his tweets, Ai said: "When you're in the middle of someone, you don't know whether it's 'winter,' like Ai's art, he has turned his events into provocative posts).

At the moment, Ai is prevented from leaving China but he prefers to stay in his homeland because he feels that's the least he can do for those who have supported not only his art, but also his views. *Photos/wikipedia Photocommons, The Asahi*

Anna Hazare

India's anticorruption activist

In late November, Sharad Pawar, India's minister for agriculture, was slapped in the face by an angry man who had posed in a protest to expose scams in him.

Harvinder Singh, who was sent to jail a day later, said he was annoyed by the ministers trolled rise in food prices.

Where news reached the anti-graft activist Anna Hazare in his home village for pensions was rather unprepared for someone rudely regarded as a follower of Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of nonviolence. "Just one slap?" he inquired.

A second capture followed those remarks and Hazare literally backtracked. But two weeks later, he appeared to justify the incident. "For the betterment of society," he said, "I do not consider it (the violence) wrong."

The year 2011 in India, income dominated the headlines as much as the 74-year-old Hazare, the former army driver and social reformer who launched a crusade on corruption by calling for a strong national Ombudsman with wide powers to investigate graft and order prosecution.

Hazare broke the prime minister under the purview of the cabinet, or Ombudsman, and the Central Bureau of Investigation to take its order from this office, not the government of the day.

In August, a year resulting but embodied the action, with India's frenetic electronic media giving him minutes-by-minute coverage.

Parliament was forced to have a special Saturday session to pass a "sense of the house resolution" that wanted to accede to most of Hazare's demands. Last month, the CNN-IBN news channel named him Indian of the Year 2011.

History has told his story many times. During the 1965 war with Pakistan, he said, his student platoon was wiped out and he, himself, who escaped with shrapnel injuries. It was an epiphanic moment and from that time on he vowed to live and die for "Mother India."

Returning to his village to the western state of Maharashtra, Hazare, who never married and lives in a simple temple with two bedrooms and a tin plate off which he eats, began a program of social uplift.

In a couple of decades, the village of Ralegan Siddhi changed immeasurably. From a single-crop village, there are now two crops, partly because of a program to recharge groundwater. Literacy rocketed. Drinks and liquor outlets vanished. Such results soon gave Hazare a massive standing in the state.

"I have claimed six wickets," Hazare said recently using a cricket term to describe the number of corrupt politicians he had ousted.

What Hazare achieved, to a degree, was to use his provincial predicament on the national stage, helped by an obliging media and a nation desperately looking for an unimpeachable hero of integrity to crusade against India's political class as hugely corrupt and cunning. Hazare, in his homespun cotton clothes and Gandhi cap, fitted the bill.

The Man Ends Maharashtra obliged in August, after Hazare's call to fast unto death, arrested him to prevent his fast. Hazare's then are upon for cohesive win to drive to the mausoleum of Mahatma Gandhi, where he could spend the policemen chosen him as the time to step his death. Then the next few hours he held small chow and the next morning's headlines appeared above pictographs showing him smiling benevolently at the clicks. *Rino Tellow, The Straits Times*

Thein Sein

Reformist or lackey?

He announced a ceasefire with armed ethnic minorities that have been fighting with the government for decades. Many people have reacted a truce while many others see in the process of suppression.

He relaxed some economic restrictions and showed intention to solve the most difficult issue of the four currency. On top of it, he also eased restrictions on the media. For instance, articles and pictures of Aung San Suu Kyi are already allowed in local media and protesters with the opposition leader are permitted. Web pages of many media organizations that were once banned are now accessible, too.

Thein Sein, 66, is not a new face in Burma's politics but he never had the experience of being a subordinate. Most people know him earlier as a follower of the junta's paramount leader, Than Shwe.

He trained under the Defense Services Academy schools he graduated in 1968 but he has no record of being a combat soldier. Through out his military career, he was a bureaucrat, rather than a tough field commander. *Sopheak Gargamel Inquirer, The Nation*

Fukushima 50

Japan's faceless heroes

Battling fatigue and hunger, engineers, scientists and fire chiefs—nicknamed Fukushima and an army of volunteers refused to abandon their work to save millions of lives from a tragedy that brought the world its first look at a nuclear disaster.

These faceless, nameless men and women in straight technocrat suits were called the "Fukushima 50," represent the hundreds of workers who intervened in Japan's fourth-worst crisis to save people who believed it still sacrifice to stave off further disaster to a country wrecked by a massive earthquake and tsunami that struck its northeastern coast.

Japan's largest in history, the 9-magnitude quake sunk or leveled a tsunami that drained the lives of close to 16,000 people on March 11, 2011. More than 3,000 were missing.

The Fukushima plant lost power right after. Safety systems failed and caused a series of explosions, damaging the nuclear reactors. With no power to keep the fuel rods cool which, when too hot, would explode and lead to a nuclear meltdown, the workers worked overtime to pump water into the storage pools and keep the situation under control.

Glad to note that barely suffered protection from its disaster elements, they all toiled quietly despite the risk of putting their lives on the line. They prepared not only for death, but also for the threat of unknown-related diseases that could happen later in life.

One of the volunteers, a retired Japanese worker for an electric company, needed to explain to his daughter that the future of Fukushima rested on them. "I feel it's our mission to help," he told BBC. *Asia News Network*

Across the NATION

Viet seamen can't get help from PH

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The lack of a search and rescue ship has stopped Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) personnel stationed at the northern tip of Luzon from coming to the aid of 22 crew members of a Vietnamese ship, which sank in the Pacific Ocean on Christmas Day.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Ernesto Bebas, acting commander of the PCG station in Aparri, Cagayan, said his team has yet to launch a search and rescue mission for the Vietnamese crew members of the VT Northstar Queen, a 21,247-ton cargo vessel.

"We have received instructions from higher headquarters to go to the site but we cannot [do it] because our patrol boat [does] not have the kind of large watercraft that can withstand huge waves in that part of the Pacific Ocean," Bebas said.

He said Northstar Queen, owned by the Vietnam National Shipping Lines, was reported to be sinking at 2 p.m. on Dec. 25 in have been engulfed in the high seas, about 111 nautical miles (205 kilometers) east of Basco Island in Batanes.

THE COAST Guard has received a distress call from a ship in 111 Vietnamese crewmen that drifts unsuccessfully off the northernmost tip of the Philippines where waves bigger than three stairs ing the coastline of Batanes region's biggest rescue ships, which the Coast Guard doesn't have, is to blame.

"It was first reported to have tilted 10 degrees on its left side, before its operators lost all radio contact," he said.

The last time the Coast Guard's Aparri unit could receive to conduct monitoring of ship discovery of survivors after they abated residents and officials of coastal villages in Calayan, Camalaniugan, Faire, Dalupiri and Babuyan Islands, said Bebas.

Poor weather and the distance of the accident site from Luzon's mainland have also hampered a two-day aerial search using one of the Coast Guard's aircraft on Wednesday, preventing them from finding the ship in the high seas.

Police officials in the region said they could not get any information on the fate of the crew and 22 of its 23 Vietnamese members.

"We report of that nature has reached my office," said Chief Supt. Rodrigo de Grazia, Cagayan Valley police director.

The Vietnamese media reported that one Tran Ngoc Hoang, the lone survivor, was flown from Singapore and had arrived in Hanoi on Wednesday after he was rescued on Dec. 29 by crew members of MV London Courage, a British cargo vessel.

"He was lucky that he was seen by another vessel because out of the ocean is the navigational lane of international ships," Bebas said.

Northern Queen was said to be carrying about 24 tons of nickel bound for China from Mozambique, Indonesian, where it was last used to barge waters in the Pacific and sank.

The Philippine Navy recently upgraded its fleet with the purchase of a refurbished warship, the BRP Gregorio del Pilar, which had been deployed to the West Philippine Sea (or, known to South China Sea) amid tensions there with China.

Officials recently said the Gregorio del Pilar would provide security to the Malampaya gas-to-power project off Palawan.

The ship had been bought and refurbished in the United States. Malaysia-Gazette, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Solon tells flood victims: New houses are not free

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The housing project in Bonbonon Subdivision here for victims of the Dec. 17 disaster at the height of Tropical Storm "Sendong" isn't being offered to the victims for free, but on installment basis.

Rep. Rufus Rodriguez made the clarification at a forum here on Thursday.

He said the National Housing Authority (NHA) would develop an 84-hectare parcel of land for the housing project. Each unit would cost P200,000.

Rodriguez said NHA is currently working on the subdivision plan, waterworks and electricity plan for the project, which will accommodate 5,000 families.

The units would be duplex units three stories of 50 square meters each, he said.

The site for the housing project would also have children's playground, a church, sports facilities, a police outpost and health center, a three-hectare area for livelihood and a commercial center.

He said the process of identifying the beneficiaries was in progress but would educate beneficiaries on these really in need.

The screening process, he said, would be done by three agencies—Department of Social Welfare and Development, the city Social Welfare Center and the NHA.

Agency chiefs being screened for the project were members of Isla de Oro, Cala-cala and Isla Bonbon, whose houses were destroyed in the floods.

"Those who will be entitled by the three offices will be able to move there by May this year," said the congressman. Contact: Alu Fe said will move next month.—Bobby Lagsa, Inquirer Mindanao

Raps eyed vs courier firm in seized anteater, turtle parts

By Marcia Cenzo
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—In an impending watchdog group is studying whether to file a complaint that had opened to transport a cargo of turtle and anteater parts that were seized by authorities before these could be shipped to Cebu City.

Lawyer Adeline Bonifacio-Mitra, head of the enforcement and legal division of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), said her group would definitely press charges against the consignee of the cargo and was studying the possibility of also suing the courier firm, Air 21, that would have shipped the seized parts to Cebu.

Mitra said the country's Wildlife Act specified in Section 27 of the Philippine Wildlife Act that prohibits the transport of wildlife.

"We've had several meetings with these couriers and shipping companies and they were told to strictly inspect all cargo," Mitra said in a phone interview on Thursday.

Airport and government authorities this week seized boxes of anteater scales and meat and water that had come aboard of Lucky Cebu Pacific flight 5J 5 from Puerto Princesa City.

SCALES of anteaters and scales of marine turtles, both categorized as endangered species under the International Union for Conservation of Nature, are intercepted at the Puerto Princesa City airport as they were about to be sent to Cebu City through a courier firm.

The flight was supposed to have departed at 6:30 a.m. but was delayed for about two hours.

Mitra said the seized contraband are usually sold for P4,000 to P5,000 per kg and are used as materials for accessories such as guitar picks. The meat is likely believed to have medicinal qualities.

Mitra said the turtles and anteaters are categorized as critically endangered while anteaters, which are endemic in Palawan, are threatened species, at least three anteaters must be killed to produce a kilogram of its scales.

Mitra said the shipper of Monday's haul, by the name of Severino Bendon from Puerto Princesa, was a regular customer of Air 21, who used to ship boxes of dried fish.

"The first five times really concerned customs officials. Perhaps that was why they didn't bother to inspect its boxes this time," Villena said.

The boxes that were intercepted Wednesday were named under a certain Lucio Ong with an address in Cebu City.

Police authorities followed the leads to these people but could no longer locate them in the addresses listed on the cargo.

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Rising cases of theft won't spare Phivolcs

By Ray Sinad and Phil S. Arguelles
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—A top official of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) in Bicol has asked police to help retrieve stolen Phivolcs equipment and put behind bars the men who stole the items in separate cases in the last two weeks.

Ed Laguerta, resident Phivolcs meteorologist, told police that robbers entered his office at the Lignon Hill Observatory in Barangay Bogtong in this city between midnight and 1 a.m. on Friday and took his laptop.

"The intruders took information, reports and data for Mayon and Bulusan observatories," he said in a phone interview yesterday.

Laguerta said he had been working overtime to prepare for a conference next week in Manila at the time his laptop was stolen.

He said police investigators did not find signs of forcible entry into his office.

Laguerta said he took a cue with the laptop since him but "when I woke up ... the laptop was no longer on my desk."

On the second week of December, the executive system installed around the slopes of Mayon Volcano in the Albay, Daraga, Camalig, Guinobatan, Libon, Polangui and Oas towns was stolen.

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Laguerta said he had been working overtime to prepare for a conference

Ex-Cebu allies' war escalates

By Doris C. Bongcac
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The war between erstwhile political buddies Mayor Michael Rama and Rep. Tomas Osmeña continues to escalate following a decision by the council, headed by Osmeña's allies, to override a veto by Rama of portions of the city's 2013 budget that slashed by more than half the amount that Rama was asking for.

Rama had sought a budget of P11.69 billion but the city council approved a budget of only P5.2 billion, saying the city had no means to finance the allocation that Rama wanted.

Rama declared and exercised his veto powers over the council's decision.

The council, for the first time in the city's history, convened in a special session to override Rama's veto.

Seventeen of the council's 18 members are allies of Osmeña, who is Rama's predecessor. Only one is not, the mayor's nephew Rico Rama.

Councilors defended the decision to override the veto. "Overriding the mayor's veto means that we are reallocating what we have passed," said Councilor Jose Daluz III.

Daluz said the councilor was fined and the budget "is now operative."

The council, he said, would submit the over-ride resolution and Rama's veto to the Department of Budget and Management for review.

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The Tender was done with the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission to submit the public of the Parent Offer for the remaining 5,355,240,410 common shares of Digitel, representing approximately 32.25% of the total issued and outstanding capital stock of Digitel (the "Remaining Digitel Common Shares") held by the public (the "Public Shareholders") at the Tender Offer Price of P1.11 per Remaining Digitel Common Share (the "Tender Offer").

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jim Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nino B. Alvarado

Breast milk best for evacuee babies

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Iligan City

SHE LOST her year-old son in the Dec. 17 flash flood, but 22-year-old Elsa Iyog Echanez has maintained her lactation to infants who have survived the devastation can enjoy the luxury of mother's milk.

"I want other children to experience it with the closeness because I know how difficult it is," said Echanez, who stays with her husband Bryan at the evacuation center in Santa Filomena El-ementary Schools in Iligan City.

Since Dec. 26, Echanez has been taking a daily dose of vitamins provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) to increase her lactation, which can go on for the next six months.

She has been pumping out milk and has it stored in a refrigerator provided by Unicef to the evacuation camp.

She still looks forward to pumping more. Her milk will be useful for infants who lost their mothers to the flood and those whose mothers have to leave the evacuation center during the day in order to earn money.

According to Trevor Clark, Unicef chief for Mindanao, the agency was encouraging mothers to continue breastfeeding their babies and young children to safely ensure milk for long-term health.

Clark explained that studies of disaster situations throughout the world had found that mothers who stop breastfeeding, supposedly only during the emergency situation, ended up using infant formula even in the post-disaster and recovery periods.

By not drawing on breast milk, lactation was reduced or completely stopped if the situation was prolonged.

Breast milk is still the safest food for infants during such emergency, Clark pointed out.

He said that in the aftermath of natural disasters, it is essential to ensure that these might not be a reliable supply of clean and safe drinking water needed to prepare milk from infant formula.

That's why it is important to identify sources of breast milk, especially those near the disaster area, Clark said.

In its report on Dec. 28, 2011, the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) noted that following the killer floods in Cagayan de Oro City, "donations of milk products, other kinds of milk, baby bottles are being reported in almost all evacuation centers ..."

UNOCHA said that was a violation of national and international codes and the Department of Health policy against donations of milk products.

"No import of milk donations has been acted by the city health office of Iligan," it said.

Distinct needs

Experts from the Unicef and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) have encouraged disaster relief workers overseeing evacuation camps to treasure pregnant and lactating women, as well as infants, because they have special needs apart from the general food allowed population.

PAWIT members cry over their babies by the Dec. 17 disaster in the cities of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro leave their children under care of relatives at evacuation centers as they attend to an equally important task of finding livelihood. ANANIAS ARCAYAN

In fact, the UNFPA has registered 287 pregnant women and 158 lactating women in 12 evacuation camps in Cagayan de Oro.

On Thursday, as part of its registration efforts, the UNFPA held a medical mission for pregnant and lactating women in Cagayan de Oro. It distributed hygiene kits.

Present in that clinic mission was a woman who was pregnant with her seventh child and was due to give birth in the evacuation center.

Echanez's situation was discovered by teachers during their research in the evacuation center as volunteer relief workers.

Almost a week after the disaster, Echanez experienced painful swelling of her breasts. "Right then, I reasoned out my son. I thought that if he were only here, he could have fortified on my milk, and to return. I would not have that swelling," she sobbed, tearfully.

Already teething, Echanez's son Emmanuel, preferred his mother's milk over porridge.

Hoped-for child

Emmanuel turned a year old last Dec. 6. "We asked God for him," said Echanez, a Born Again Christian, who married when she was 16.

Echanez chose to deliver Emmanuel in General Alonso City so her mother could look after her.

It was a cesarian procedure as Echanez had not experienced labor pains 36 days way past the supposed date of delivery. Emmanuel stayed in the neonatal intensive care unit for a week before Echanez could have him beside her.

"He was the answer to our constant prayers like a child. So, I got his name from the Bible," Echanez said. (Emmanuel in Hebrew means "God is with us.")

Echanez gave up a job as cashier in a department store and became a full-time mother. Her husband with peasants for a living, apart from the meager income from a feed of coconut trees planted on a land which is all from his parents.

Hospital fare

Granted passes for a hospital fee, allows Echanez to come to terms with her family's tragic loss.

Her family was active in Barangay Buntuan in Iligan when they were awakened by the rising cold, water-deep waters. Unable to flee through the door, they escaped by destroying the roof.

Echanez was finally clutching Emmanuel as the concrete house was crumbled by the raging torrent. The roof was carried away toward the Mandulog River, as Cagayan's yuppie was felt and separated mother and child.

In the morning, Echanez and Bryan hung on coconut trees, the body of Emmanuel was found in a mangrove area of Barug Island.

Today, Bryan prevents Echanez from getting new children, especially those of Emmanuel's age, because they would only make her cry.

Asked if they still hope for another child, Echanez replied: "If God wills it."

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Bulk MOST of the 17,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in war-torn Syria are refusing to come home despite the mounting violence —Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario

GLOBAL Pinoy

Color Monica Feria

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

OVERSEAS Filipino workers complain of long queues at the Manila airport and red tape at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. Photo taken at 4 a.m., last month by Singapore-based lawyer Oscar Franklin Tan.

A year of triumphs and tragedies for OFWs

INQUIRER.net

2011 was a year of its triumphs and tragedies for Filipino overseas workers. The execution of four Filipinos in China last year for drug smuggling revealed the ugly face of diaspora. But it was also a year that Filipinos showed the world how they could stand up for its defend civil liberties. A maid in Hong Kong and four Filipino nurses in the US separately won landmark lawsuits against racial discrimination. Worst of all, one Filipino worker's dedication to work and friendship paid off as she inherited $30 million from her employer—an American heiress. Pinoys abroad also joined the successful campaign to get the Puerto Princesa Underground River in an online survey top 7 Wonders of Nature. They were moved to tears, too, logging thousands of hits to view a picture of a hole schoolgirl wading through flood waters to save the Philippine flag. Filipinos abroad have sent thousands of dollars, as well as help their compatriots victimized by the strong typhoons and floods that slammed the country last year.

These were some of the big stories of Filipinos overseas:

STANDING UP! In migrant rights. Filipino workers in Hong Kong flash the victory sign after a court ruled that domestic helpers were entitled to the same residency rights as other expatriates.

1. Filipino maid wins Hong Kong landmark case

Filipina maid Evangeline Banao Vallejos won the opening legal battle in her fight for permanent residency after the Hong Kong court ruled that denying maids the right to abode after seven years—a benefit given to other foreign residents—was unconstitutional. The right to abode would make it easier for foreign domestic workers to rent their own flats and bring family members over.

2. Fil-Am nurses win US racial suit

Four Filipino-American health workers, who were fired the moment they spoke Tagalog in the work place won the class-action lawsuit they filed against the San Jacinto Health System, a hospital based in Baltimore, Maryland. The ruling was a big win for diversity and an impressive victory for Filipinos in America." In a ruling dated August 30, the court said there was reasonable cause that the health workers were subjected to "unequal terms and conditions of employment, a hostile work environment, disciplinary action and discharge because of their national origin in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

3. Filipino drug mules accused in China

Three Filipinos convicted of drug smuggling were executed in China in March, triggering condemnations by the Catholic Philippines and despair for family members who shared their ill-fated economies. "It is a sad day for all of us," Vice President Jejomar Binay said as he confirmed that the three were put to death by lethal injection. Another Filipino was executed before year's end.

4. Underground river among new 7 wonders

The Philippines' Puerto Princesa Underground River, the Amazon rainforest, Vietnam's Halong Bay and Argentina's Iguazu falls were named among the world's new seven wonders of nature. The other three counted the world's natural wonders are South Korea's Jeju Island, Indonesia's Komodo and South Africa's Table Mountain, said the New7Wonders Foundation, citing per-national results.

5. Nai: I is rated 'world's worst airport'

It just gets worse and worse. Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Nai), particularly Terminal 1, once made Nai: I among the "Worst Airports in the World," said "The Guide to Sleeping in Airports," an internet site website that gathers reports from various airplanes. Travelers complained of "subway crowds, lack of comfortable seating, rude staff, hostile security, poor facilities, no (or few) services to pass the time, bribery, being locked out and petulant hassles of being in the airport."

6. Schoolgirl, 12, honored for saving Philippine flag

No one would have thought that the shy 12-year old girl in red sneakers had achieved a feat one would normally associate with soldiers on a battlefield: Save the country's flag. For her deed, Allyle Philippine flag was pinned on Thursday on the left collar of Janella Ann Lejo as rained all that this was the sixth grader who saved the flag from raging floodwaters when Typhoon "Sendong" slammed her hometown Mindanao, Albay last year.

OVERSEAS Pinoys have donated thousands of dollars to help victims of typhoons and disasters back home. This photo of a 12-year-old girl saving the flag from floods got thousands of hits from overseas Filipinos.

US immigration reform: Two Young DREAMers

IMFO

Evangeline Vallejos Vancouver

By 2011, the raising war of words surrounded Philippine migrants received political attention. Their disclosures have had an impact on the current political debate in the United States on immigration reforms. Those are the stories of two Pinoys."

Jose I

At the age of 12, Jose used a fraudulent traveling document to enter the US. He was able to attend US schools and graduated on top of his class.

Jose was forced to live a life of lies and deceit after he discovered that he was "undocumented" at the age of 16. He researched his immigration status and learned under a decision to study and work hard. He became a journalist and was part of the team of the Pulitzer Prize. But he still feels that if he achieved enough, he would be rewarded with a pathway to US citizenship.

On June 23, 2011, in an article he wrote for the New York Times, he came out and declared he was undocumented. He said that he was done running and was exhausted. He advocated the passage of a bill that would help individuals who are similarly situated. He still considers it the 21st century civil rights movement. Secretary has issued no deportations under against him.

Jose 2

The case of Jose 2 is different in many ways. He arrived in the US with his parents when he was 15 years old. He entered with a valid visa. His parents filed an application for political asylum and were able to obtain employment authorization. Jose attended US schools and completed a bachelors degree. He was able to get a job as a "dental assistant."

The family's application for political asylum was eventually denied by the immigration service on the ground that his family had not met the requirements that would entitle him "permanent." His parents returned voluntarily for the Philippines, but young Jose stayed on in the US.

Unlike the first story, this second Jose tried to keep a very low profile. His US employer filed a petition for him to be able to get a visa and this petition was approved, the current immigration law will does not allow him legal status. He appeal was dismissed and he was ordered to leave last November 2011. After much lobbying from friends and supporters of immigration reform, the Department of Homeland Security extended his stay in the US for another year.

The DREAMers

The two Joses are the real life stories of Jose Antonio Vargas and Jose Arroyo. They spent most of their growing years in the US and have promising careers. They are DREAMers, children who were brought to the US when they were young and whose decision to emigrate were not their own. They are being penalized by law for decisions or mistakes made by their parents.

Unless the Development, Relief, Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act is passed into law, thousands of individuals who are similarly situated will face the same problems.

This New Year, I remain hopeful that somehow a resolution to undocumented children will be adopted. The cases of the two Joses are stories of courage. Their coming out of the dark originates many of us about the realities being faced by young and talented individuals whose dreams are shattered because of a dysfunctional system. There is a glimmer of hope that this will change. Happy New Year to all!

Chin-Ince may be reached at imf@newsline.com or at 687 7177 or 721 3062.

Whose side are POEA conciliators on?

By Susan R

VIVELLA (names of links upgraded for a job in Hong Kong with the ABMS agency and paid P81,000 as placement fee.

In Hong Kong, she was made to work not only for her employer but also for his employer's parents. One time she was scalded because her employer was not satisfied with the way she had cleaned the grandparents' house. She answered her employer, pointing out that cleaning another family's house was prohibited in the contract she signed.

Her employer was angered by her response and complained to the CT agency. ABMS counterpart in HK. She told Vivella she was home born to prepare food for the children, always disobeyed her instructions and had too many complaints.

Vivella countered that her workload was too heavy. She told the recruiter served meals at 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. at midnight.

At any rate, after working for two months and 13 days, Vivella was brought back to the agency. Her employer told the agency that it was Vivella who wanted to end her contract and return to the Philippines—a charge she denied.

In Hong Kong, an employer can terminate an employee by paying a one month salary advance. The law gives a domestic worker in such a situation 14 days in stay online she finds a new employer.

Luckily, Vivella found one. She signed a contract with another agency the Sunlight Agency in HK and paid a HK$750 processing fee.

Because it was the last day of her contract, she flew back to the Philippines. She had to travel to go to the Accord Agency in Manila, the counterpart of her new agency in HK, to complete the processing of her documents. The new agency asked her for US$600 and P15,000 more to cover medical and dental examinations.

Vivella was loaned in debts. She waited more than two months before she was sent back to HK. She waited only days at the agency office, only to be told that her employer was no longer interested in hiring a domestic helper because the law decided to relocate to China.

Vivella again returned to the Philippines with much grief and woes. To try to get her money back for the two placement fees, she filed complaints against both ABMS and ASCENT agencies with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). During their conciliation hearing, Vivella said she and the employer in front of agency representatives. "Kung kaya nyo, pareda ko, pero kung ako na lang ang aalis, hindi ako magbabayad ng kahigingan kasama ang recruited Filipino worker in the Middle East.

DZIQ 990AM RADYO INQUIRER

CF Madrid too good for Azkals

By Cedrik F. Tupas

IT WAS a loss that felt more like a win for Philippine football.

The Azkals Aguinaldo bowed to a more cohesive and disciplined Internacional de Madrid side, 3-1, last night in a closely game that lured a record of 6,000 at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Proceeds of the match dubbed "Bilis ng mga Ace" will go to relief efforts for the victims of Tropical Storm Sendong in Mindanao and for goal scorer Jimmy Bagunda's friend, that was already enough.

"I'm glad to get the goal, but for me just being part of this game is already special," he said.

At halftime, CF Madrid officials turned over a check of P 100,000 each to the Philippine Red Cross and Bagunda's friend, Richard Gomboc. The stadium observed a minute of silence for the victims before the game and the crowd sang "You'll Never Walk Alone" from the 1945 Broadway musical Carousel dedicated to the victims.

Evangelista had scored the only goal for the Azkals—a header from a cross from Chiefly Caligdong—in the 42nd minute, but by that time, the Aguinaldo Toronto division side had already settled the outcome after going 3 and up a minute into the second half.

Azkals substitute put CF Madrid ahead with a 16th minute penalty after Edmund Bonoan slipped Daniel Forrester Fernandez inside the box.

Fernandez doubled the lead in the 32nd minute with a curling strike from just inside the box. A quick counterattack a minute and a half into the second half saw Ignacio Rojo strike it 3-1 at will a well-taken strike from close range.

While several players from the United Football League were in the squad, Azkals Aguinaldo Felipe Gallego opted to field a starting lineup made up of national players.

But the Azkals were a shadow of the fearsome side that won three matches last year, struggling to keep up with the pace and penetrating play of the Spanish side, which continuously created chances in the opening half.

"The fitness level was very low. The passing and combination play wasn't there, but that changed in the second half," said Gabaldo.

The Azkals are preparing for the AFC Challenge Cup in March and Gabaldo said the match showed there was plenty of work to be done on the road to the regional competition in the tournament.

"It was a tough game and we played a very good team which makes this match [...] said CF Madrid coach Javier Lucas Blanquez.

A swift three-pass combination from the backline allowed Fernandez to outpass Aaron Del Rosario, forcing Sweeper to go out of his line.

The Azkals found difficulty to break down the Spanish side with Ian Araneta limited to long-range efforts and Phil Younghusband managing just a near shot in the 13th minute.

JIMMY Bagunda (left) of the Azkals Aguinaldo battles CF Madrid's Sergio Rojo for possession.

New scenario for May 5 fight

TOP RANK promoter Bob Arum is scheduled to fly to Manila this Tuesday to discuss the most likely of eight alternate would change in the May 5 fight.

Arum is expected to present to the beleaguered congressman two potential opponents in the proposed May 5 fight which does not include Floyd Mayweather Jr., who was no more as of today just an interesting footnote.

Arum said the four possibilities include a rematch with Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto, a fourth meeting with Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez and first time bout with unbeaten junior welterweight world champion Tim Bradley and Lamont Peterson.

Then was the scenario two days ago.

Yesterday, the picture drastically changed when Top Rank publicist Dan Gerry on ABS-CBN pointed out quoted by Head A to delay the evening of his interview.

Mayweather advisors told the judge that the undefeated American boxer has made the appeal because he previously committed to a "mega fight" on May 5 which the valuable would have been sending for.

The other fighter is Ysaias Mayweather's opponent in the long fight.

Because Mayweather has an obligation to fulfill I will grant his request for postponement and reschedule his jail sentence to a date of May 7," Bernardo ruled.

The Mayweather camp said they will be making an announcement regarding the details of the May 5 fight in due time.

"It seems to me the party, but who am I to say?" Arum said reported upon hearing of the latest development.

Arum said his concern at this point is that the camp on Manny committed about his right eye during his last fight with Margarito might not be fully healed when he must sparring to handle the May 5 fight.

"I don't know if Manny will be ready to his new fight in May," said Arum.

Mayweather knows better who Manny will fight if he is ready to fight anyone.

The Pacquiao and Mayweather camps have attempted to draw a deal for a fight three times but have failed on all three occasions.

I already had an idea what his reaction would be, but I just had to ask. Gilt anyway.

What is your reaction for 2010? I asked the World's head on the phone yesterday moments after Cesar is the papers that one more gold medal may be added to Philippine athletics in last year's fourteenth Asian Games.

"I think we would be going after POC president Peping Cojuangco that his money into and the National Sports Association with unliquidated expenses. And those who recognized to expel him from his post, he added.

As a response, I have the right to question him the government's money was spent," he said.

"2012 is a time to start back at all those who unconditional support me. It's profound time! I am now knowledging my full attention to people away are the dirty hands of the guilty. Pity him to him the consequences of having robbed and plundered people's money."

"To the POC head, another co-conspirators in the executive board, and the SEA hockey whom I criticized as members of the Olympic family but were influenced and leveraged by the POC president Cojuangco, I am prepare now game and blindly signed for my expulsion and denying me the privilege, bitter conclusion for the inevitable battles getting your next?" was he NOTE.

Bulls hold off Magic, log sixth straight win

ORLANDO, Florida—Derrick Rose and Luol Deng each scored 21 points as the Chicago Bulls held off a fourth-quarter surge by Orlando to beat the Magic 97-83 on Friday for their sixth straight victory.

Carlos Boozer added 20 points for Chicago, which held off a late push by the Magic that narrowed a 17-point lead to just three at 89-75 with six minutes left before securing the victory by limiting the Magic to just one more field goal in a 27-9 run.

Chicago's Kyle Korver had two of his five three-pointers in the game to secure the winning margin. Rose also had 10 assists and Boozer pulled down 13 rebounds to record double-doubles.

"I thought he [Rose] had a really good command of the game," Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau said reporters. "He did a great job of playmaking and when he needed to score, he scored."

Dwight Howard scored 34 of his 36 points in the last quarter to keep the Magic close early, but the Bulls seized control of the game in the second quarter with Rose scoring 12 points, building a 57-point lead at halftime.

Howard also had 15 rebounds for a double-double and Jason Richardson added 17 points.

"Deuts simply we're not at that level. Not close," conceded Orlando coach Stan Van Gundy. "And that's OK. I'm not using that crying or complaining. That's just the way it is. You've got to earn respect. We've got to get to the work to earn that level, because right now we're not close to that level of play."

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 26 of his 29 points in a dynamic second half, Pau Gasol added 17 points and 11 rebounds, and the twenty gained out a 87-86 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Matt Barnes had 16 points and six assists for the Lakers, trailing only for the Jazz, who was then fifth straight home game while playing their 38th-high mark game in 13 days.

Monta Ellis scored 18 points and David Lee had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Warriors.

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 26 points and top reserve James Harden added 23 as the Thunder eased into their one stretch of three games on consecutive nights by topping the Houston Rockets, 109-94.

The Rockets fell to 0-3 on the road this season but got a scratch Saturday night on their Texas Area where they've won their only two games this season.

In Phoenix, Steve Nash made all seven shots, two of them three-pointers, and handed out nine assists before sitting out the fourth quarter to watch his Suns complete a 132-77 rout of the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Jared Dudley scored 18 points and Hedo Turkoglu added 17 for the Suns. Marcin Gortat added 12.

LaMarcus Aldridge tied 14 points for the Trail Blazers, who shot 32 percent, 26 percent in the first half.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, the Miami Heat's quest to overcome the record-tied eighth pulling out a 102-96 victory over the Bobcats behind 23 points and 13 rebounds from Antawn Jamison.

Marcus Williams added 18 points and seven rebounds, and Al Horford scored 20 points for the Hawks (9-5).

In other games, it was Knicks 99, Wizards 86; Nets 97, Raptors 93; Timberwolves 98, Pistons 73; Pacers 87, Celtics 74; Grizzlies 98, Timberwolves 87; Nuggets 96, Bobcats 88; Jazz 94, Grizzlies 88.

AP

DERRICK Rose (No. 1) of Chicago eases the attacker against Orlando.

Folayang highlights URCC Cebu event

THE UNIVERSAL Reality Combat Championship and Cult All Stars' fourth series finale that their first tournament outside Metro Manila. It's in the Cebu International Convention Center in Cebu City.

The return of the most decorated and perhaps the most feared local mixed martial arts (MMA) practitioner in Filipino "The Lionheart" Folayang will highlight the 10-Fight event dubbed as URCC Cebu 7: Domination.

"We want to do more for your fight, so we are bringing Eduard back in the MMA scene," said URCC president Alvin Aguilar. "It's going to be our big event in Cebu because the sport is fast gaining popularity in the South."

Folayang is coming off a successful 2010 Games campaign in Indonesia where he defeated Mike Wik, a feat that reinforced his status as the country's most successful rookie and MMA scene of his generation.

Already a three-time SEA Games gold champion, the 28-year-old Folayang is gunning for his sixth straight URCC win when he battles Bellator Welter "Knockout" Tournie in the Superfight of the event also headed by Chris Sports stars Solar Entertainment is the event's main sponsor.

Other fights at the bout are Aldwin Cruz La Salle Green Hills with Ian Araneta and La Salle Zobel and Xavier with three names Association with Ian Araneta and Ateneo Blue Eagles Kevin Apostol with one set.

The international container Terminal Services Inc. is the main sponsor of PDP Tournament with the backing of Philippine Airlines, Chevrolet, Pancake House, Selecta Ice and Globe Prepaid.

Unlike in the aforementioned where results were carried over from the first leg to the next, all bouts will start from square in the bouts.

The URCC Cebu 7: Domination will be held on Feb. 5 at the Cebu International Convention Center. Tickets are available at Ticketworld.

For more information, interested fans could contact Jun Rafael Ramos at 0917-5-JP-JR-ERIC-47-12-5-8-4-4-4-3, Facebook Group Universal Reality Combat Championship or Twitter @URCC.

Jungolf varsity tilt up tomorrow

TOP squadrons from the four elementary legs clash for bragging rights on the grand finals of the UCTid Jungolf Championships tomorrow and Sunday at the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Division champs La Salle Green Hills, Ateneo, Xavier, Grace, Gilligan's, Ateneo, Almighty, La Salle Zobel, Xavier, Ateneo, Ateneo, Ateneo

NU upsets defending champion UST in men's tennis

RATINGS. University continued to pull off surprises in several fronts with the Bulldogs stunning the defending champion University of Santo Tomas Tigers, 3-2, at the start of the UAAP men's tennis competition yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The NU duo of Lancelot Lumsay and Tim Pidoro outlasted UST's John Haddad and Bernardino Bering, 6-3, 7-5, to the deciding doubles to wrap up the Bulldogs' strong debut.

Coach Bart Bantasan mentored the Bulldogs, who folded their five tennis team after calling the shots for the powerhouse Tigers for 18 years.

UST's Ralph Bartle, last season's MVP blanked NU's Ali Obedy Jamal, 6-0, 6-0, to kick off the Tigers' bid for a third straight crown. But the Bulldogs bounced it with Michael Madrid and Oliver Talatayod downing Gerald Pitoli and Ryan Monsalve, 6-3, 6-2, in the first doubles match.

Seman Lee Bering got the Tigers back up by posting a 6-2, 3-1 (ret.) triumph over Wilson Dino in the second singles, before the Bulldogs came back again with Eric Arshad topping Jan Overiano, 6-1, 7-5.

NU, which overhauled its sports program with the chief backing of tycoon Hans Sy, mounted the biggest boosting when the Bulldogs captured the junior basketball crown last October. A perennial cellar-dweller in most sports, the Bulldogs also surprisingly nailed a runner-up finish in men's badminton last September.

The Bulldogs last captured a seniors division championship in 1986 through their tennis team.

In other matches, University of the Philippines drubbed Ateneo, 4-1, with Franklin Encarnacion, Joshua Miranda and Angelo Figueroa delivering the wins in singles and Leandro Fernandez and Miguel Pelilla in doubles.

In women's action, La Salle kicks off its bid for a third straight title against UST with last season's MVP Peggy Santiago at 11 noon.

Women's volleyball action also resumes with reigning champion La Salle clashing with UST in a rematch of last season's finals at 9:30 p.m. at the FEBC Filing Y Arena in San Juan.

UP and University of the East target to the other match at 2 p.m., after the men's dual featuring NU against UE at 9 a.m. and UST versus the Eastern University at 10:30 a.m.

Jasmine W. Reyes

Elder Orteza, Olivarez capture 16-U Andrada titles

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ANTIPOLO. Orteza defeated the power game of sister Isabella to prevail, 6-0, 6-4, and capture the girls' 16-under championship crown as season four Oriental Mercantile Realty Development Corp. Group 1 tennis tournament yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The 15-year-old Ateneo standout seemed in the dramas, patiently worked the baseline in conquering her 14-year-old sister and avenge her loss in the finals after losing the Manila Polo Club Trinity Cup event last year.

The daughter of former players and now doctors Jose Ellowen and Neal Orteza, Ramon and Olivarez were duly at Mahong Country Club and are both varsity players for La Salle School.

Making the annual age group tournament already stiffer was their 13-year-old cousin Gracia Jo, who seized fourth seed Rosmore Ryle Joseph, 6-0, 6-3, and clinched the boys' version of the 16-under crown.

Eric Jr. was gunning for a double in his 18-under showdown with Christian Ian Andres that was still being played at presstime.

Unseeded Vince Daniel shared the spotlight after scoring a stunning 6-0, 6-4 triumph over top seed Julian Jayzle for the boys' 14-under title.

The other winners were top seeds Michael Francis Tudo in the unmet 10-under; Arthur Craig Paredes in boys' 12-under; Julia Villaruben in girls' 14-under and Monica Theresa Cruz in girls' 12-under.

Tudo imposed his superior skills against Ilijan Tabangcal, 6-2, 6-2; Paulina Arevalolard second seed Jacob Martin, 6-1, 6-0; Mariduena in girls' 14-under and Nicole Chantal Cajudoleda, 6-2, 6-3, while Cruz outclassed Isabella Villanueva, 6-1, 6-0.

Second seeds marauders Matias Jude Cajudoleda and Marinel Badua were also fighting for the girls' 16-under crown at presstime.

FOO: It would be foolish to think it's all over.

Fil-Singaporean Foo storms away

Carlos falls behind by 6 shots

By Mayang B. Carillo

CAMALIGAN.—The 101st Philippine Amateur Open golf championships may yet crown a Filipino champion after all.

Dennis Siu, the Singaporean son whose mother is Filipina, yesterday conquered the pinnacle of the Asian golf circuit as Chan Kok Sing's North course here to shoot another three-under par 69 and take a comfortable six-stroke lead heading into the final 18 holes of the prestigious championship.

The 18-year-old, who used to score home during holidays as a kid and likes pork pinoy-style, tweaks Sweden Jose Foo a ten-day tie for the lead with Johnny Carlos with a great all-around effort that gave him an eight-under 208 aggregate going into today's final round.

Carlos never got his game going and shot a 75 that dropped him to second with former champion Clyde Mauricio, who fired a 70 for 214 in the event presented by Globe Telecom, Premier Estate and Asphil Express.

"There are still 18 holes left to play and I just have to keep playing my game, keep my focus and see what happens," Siu told the bygones. "This course was pretty par so it would be foolish to think that it's all over."

Carlos, the ICTSI scholar in the United States who was tied with Foo in the first two rounds, disagrees, however, as he marvelled at the way the Filipino-Singaporean played.

"He's not capable of shooting very high numbers because his game is so controlled," said the 19-year-old Carlos, who also finished second to former superstar Peang Arong-yon as the Heroes last year.

"I will go out there and play my best and see what happens," Carlos, who had a birdie-less round marred by three bogeys, added. "I just didn't get anything to work today. I stuck with my game plan, kept my composure. But I just didn't score [low]."

Foo had four birdies against a lone bogey, which came on No. 12 when his hit a wayward drive in the right and missed the green badly coming from the tall rough.

Meanwhile, the western flank of the tournament backed by Tanduay Distillers Inc. as major sponsor and supported by Chili Gas, Bonpesos, Cold Crepes, Interbank and Callaway with Manila Hotel as official host and Philstar as official ball will also be held today after a one-day break with fourth Alaska taking a one-stroke lead over Lovelyn Estagusto into the final round.

Alondilla, a mainstay of the ICTSI Camalig team, had a roller-coaster round that included a double bogey and two bogeys on the front side. The lone birdie from Bohinen opened and closed his second nine with birdies.

Mika Alejandro fired a 71 and was alone in fourth at level 216 even as Chat Jar-ering assembled a 74 to be another stroke behind.

Jerome Ng, the other ranch Singaporean in the field, struggled with a 74 and bowed out of it all with a 218 aggregate like Jil Gonzales, who fired a 76.

Hopeful Sarapena, the reigning men's and host ranch play champion, was steady with a 73 for 220.

Incoming scores

Flight A (after 18 holes)

Sub—6, Ivan Jhon Yambot 2-0—4; Rounds 18-0-18, 3-Alejandro 77-69-71, 216—19; Rounds 73-71-71, 215—17; Hong 69-73-73-74, 219—23; Gonzales 73-73-73, 219—23; Ng 74-73-73-78, 220—24; Sarapena 73-68-79, 220—24; Jar-ering 74-74-72-76, 220—24; Jun Ong 74-68-78-76, 220—24; Jun Yambot 75-72-72-76, 220—24; Jun Yambot 77-70-75-77, 220—24; Jun Yambot 77-70-75-77, 220—24; Jun Yambot 77-70-75-77

Sunday SPORTS

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Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres
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Petron trips TNT, ties semis series

By Jane Manuere

SLIPPING flashes of the form that made him a two-time MVP, Danny Ildefonso drilled a long corner jumper as Petron Blaze nipped Talk 'N Text, 91-89, and levelled their best-of-seven PBA Philippine Cup semifinal series last night at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Ildefonso's leaper with 20.3 seconds remaining preserved the outstanding efforts of Ilon Gahuput and Joseph Yeo, who finished with a combined 40 points, most of them in the second half.

SEE ALSO
(Lovers in Jeans Embrace) It's on — Pacman's actual fight time

"Team effort did it, although they were hopeless, we never stopped out of focus," said Petron coach Ato Agustin, who used a seven-man rotation throughout.

Gahuput pumped in 12 of his 24 points while Yeo poured in the bulk of his 17 markers in the last two quarters for the Boosters, who led by as many as 16 before the Tropang Texters dented the gap in the closing minutes.

Arwind Santos, Petron's double-double machine, played five-to-turn with 11 points and 13 rebounds while Ildefonso had 22 and 10 boards.

Talk 'N Text scored 6 of 8 in the opening minutes of the fourth before Japeth Aguilar's coast-banked fallaway dunk off a Larry Fonacier assist re-energized a TNT squad that was likelier for more than five minutes.

The spurting, however, was short-lived.

Yeo buried a three-pointer from the right flank and then stroked fumes found him for underneath for an 80-67 advantage.

Mixed free throws and three-point shots plus errors hounded the Texters after they closed in to 84-85 with 30 seconds left.

Then Ildefonso launched the jumper from the corner that finally doomed the Texters.

"After Game 1, I told them that we need to play better to win Game 2 and we didn't," said Talk 'N Text coach Chot Reyes.

"They have more second chance (rebound) points and those two are very good indicators of offers. Unfortunately, they entered it more and they came off with the victory," added Reyes.

Jimmy Alapag had 17 points, Aaron Gavino had double-double efforts of 15 points and 11 rebounds as well as Kelly Williams (13 points, 12 boards) but the Texters shot just 37.2 percent, sinking 26 of 70 attempts.

Meanwhile, PBA commissioner Chito Salud has summoned Rain Or Shine coach Yeng Guiao to his office tomorrow in the wake of Guiao's tirade against officiating in Game 2 of their semifinal series with Powerade Friday night.

"Coach Guiao's conduct during and after the game is unacceptable behavior, most especially for a board coach and will be taken with severities," said Salud.

"I reviewed last night's game play by play with my technical committee and referees concerned and there is actually no ground for coach Yeng to say what he said last night."

Guiao blamed officiating after Hotsracks blasted Rain or Shine, 122-113, to even their semi-semifinal series.

The Tigers and the Elasto Painters break (big) for today at 6 p.m.

The scores

PETRON 91 — Gahuput 24, Yeo 17, Ildefonso 15, Santos 9, Ayaay 8, Mercado 7, Reyes 5, Tagaan 5, Dawalo 2, Barbo 0

TALK 'N TEXT 89 — Alapag 17, Aguilar 15, Castro 13, Williams 13, Fonacier 12, De Ocampo 8, Ward 6, Odom 5, Castelo 0, Dillinger 0, Cawley 0

Quarters: 26-18, 45-41, 68-67, 91-89

PETRON rookie Chris Lutz dives up Talk 'N Text wingman Ryan Reyes in their semifinal match last night. ALEXEY PRIMAVERA

Mayweather gets reprieve but Pacman bout still off

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

FLOYD Mayweather Jr. will be allowed to serve his prison sentence until after he fulfills his obligations in a May 5 fight date his camp has pencilled in Las Vegas, a judge ruled Friday in the Nevada gambling haven.

But hopes of the megabout between the undefeated superstar and pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao were quashed as quickly as they were raised.

Top Rank chief Bob Arum, who promotes Pacquiao, told US journalists that the logistics required to host a Pacquiao-Mayweather event rolls out at the earliest, a September fight. Team Mayweather has already reserved a May 5 fight date.

Unfortunately, it's not a date for a Pacquiao-Mayweather bout will be tough to roam into a May 5 schedule.

"It can't happen because we want to explore the idea of getting a (temporary) stadium set-up on the streets of Las Vegas that can seat 80,000 like a Mayweather-Pacquiao bout," Arum told the Los Angeles Times Friday. "The end of May is a possibility."

The MGM Grand, perennial hosts to Mayweather and Pacquiao fights, seats only 16,000 and Arum feels it is not enough for a five-million-of-each-a-tournament showdown.

"Having the fight in a 40,000-seat arena rather than a 16,000-seat arena seems like a no-brainer," said Arum.

Earlier, Las Vegas judge Melissa Saragosa gave Mayweather a reprieve from his three-month jail sentence for domestic battery after the fighter's lawyers argued that he had contractual obligations to fulfill regarding an el-

MAYWEATHER on A

Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lllanday

Don't mob the priests, devotees asked

For the first time, priests will carry Black Nazarene from altar to carriage

By Philip C. Tubeza

TO PREVENT the millions of devotees from "going wild" right at the start of the festivities, the Catholic Church is for the first time tapping priests to move the revered statue of the Black Nazarene before it embarks on its grand procession on Monday, a church official said yesterday.

Monsignor Jose Clemente Ignacio, Quiapo church rector, said they have tasked priests to carry the Black Nazarene from the altar at the Quirino Grandstand to its anda or the carriage that would be pulled throughout the procession.

"We will ask (the crowd) to wait after the Mass ends. They should not surge forward because our priests are not used to being mobbed," Ignacio said.

"And we should respect the Mass. That is sacred," he added.

Ingenious lines of the Black Nazarene—one of the most dramatic expressions of popular religious fervor in the Philippines—devotees have been known to mob the statue even before the Mass at the grandstand ends.

"They believe that they have to be first to touching the statue or the rope that would be used to pull it. A part of the crowd becomes aggressive but no one is preparing for this. We will secure the steps and priests would carry the image to the carriage," Ignacio said.

It said the presence of priests have been known to calm the crowds. Around eight million devotees are expected to attend this year's procession from the Quirino Grandstand to Quiapo Church.

The procession is scheduled to start at 8 a.m. after Mass but, because of the multitudes who attend, is expected to last for 12 to 22 hours.

"There was a time when I was in the middle of it all and they came surging forward in the middle of the altar and they were getting wild (when somebody shouted) 'It's Father! It's Father!' and they stopped," Ignacio said.

He said the most popular Quiapo priest Fr. Junjun Bernad would remind the faithful to stay in their places as priests carry the image to its carriage.

"They should stay where they are since they would be allowed to get closer later on. This is the first time that priests would carry the image," Ignacio said, adding that marshals would also be deployed.

BOMTO A12

TAKE A REST, YOU WEARY SOULS
Workers at the Quirino Grandstand at the Rizal Park raise a much-needed rest and sleep after working on the stage where the Mass will be celebrated tomorrow for the Feast of the Black Nazarene. MARI LUJAN/INQ

Tomorrow, steer clear of these streets

By Karen Boncocan

SOME eight million devotees in this year's procession for the Feast of the Black Nazarene are still inside through the following streets, so best steer clear of them on Monday:

From Quirino Grandstand right to Katigbak Drive through P. Burgos, left at Taft Avenue through MacArthur Bridge, right at Thelmar through MacArthur Bridge, left on Quezon Boulevard, right at Arlegui, then right at Evangelista, right Simyong, left at Duque de Alba, left at Castillejos, left at Bustamante, right at Arlegui, left at Nepomuceno, left at Aguilar, right at Carcer, right at Hidalgo through Plaza del Carmen, left at Jhocson, left at Villalobos through Plaza Miranda going to Quiapo.

The Manila Disaster Traffic Management Unit also said heavy traffic will affect the following areas:

- Stretch of Roxas Boulevard/Roadside Drive from

TOMORROW A2

Navotas wins Good Housekeeping award

By Kristine Felice Marquez

If THIS city were a house, it would be "clean," so to speak.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government has awarded Navotas with the Seal of Good Housekeeping, which acknowledges the city's governance practices that promote, among others, transparency and accountability.

The seal, which qualifies the local government unit to a P20-million support fund, was awarded to Mayor John Rey Tiangco in ceremonies held at the city hall on Monday.

Should Navotas be chosen, the released Local Government Support Fund, or it is called, can be used as capital to finance the city's projects.

"This will help the city support all its social services which we have learned to be cut off due to the decrease of our IRA (internal revenue allotment)," Tiangco said.

Marlon Garganchar, DILG representative to the city, said Navotas was one of four local governance units in the National Capital Region that passed "a strict and meticulous screening" by the agency.

The others were Marikina, Caloocan and Makati.

"The kind of Good Housekeeping award is difficult to come by as DILG sees to it that the city exemplifies good governance through orderly monitoring the performances of the mayor and his employees," Garganchar said.

Those practices that promote transparency and accountability include bids and public offerings through bulletin boards in conspicuous areas, the posting of used reports and notices in their official website and in widely-circulated newspapers, and a complete disclosure of local budgets and finances.

Aside from this, the award recognizes the local government unit's good planning and sound fiscal management, Garganchar said.

"The said award was given to cities, provinces and municipalities outside the region to inspire and motivate them to excel in their public services ..." he added.

2 robbers proved no match to brave jeepney passenger

By Jayrose T. Garcia

COURAGE paid off for a jeepney passenger who dared to duke it out holdup men on Friday afternoon in Binondo, Manila.

The refusal of complainant Reggie Magsaysay, of Novaliches, Quezon City, to give up his belongings in a jeepney robbery along T.M. Kalaw St. got him a scratch on the head with a gun, but it enabled a commotion that led to the arrest of the robbers.

Manila Police District Intelligence Operations Unit chief Insp. Daniel Bojato reported that Batong City Jail members Niel Sabro, 46, of Calooocan City, and Benzie Hernando, 42, of Sta. Cruz, Manila, are now facing robbery-holding complaints after they were arrested by members of a MPD patrol who had responded to the commotion.

The suspects had boarded the jeepney on T.M. Kalaw along with Magsay, and had tried to rob him at knifepoint.

When Magsay put up a fight, he was hit on the head with a gun, causing the other passengers to start screaming, which then called the attention of police patrolling the area.

Recovered from the suspects were a caliber .38 gun and a 25-inch fan knife.

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2 'gay' men face murder charges for New Year shooting of teener

By Jaymee T. Gamil

THE TWO allegedly gay men who had started the brawl that led to the fatal shooting of a teenager in Dasmariñas after New Year's night succumbed to malnutrition early morning on Saturday.

An hour after midnight on Saturday, no less than Vice Mayor Francisco "Tako Mercado" Benavidez brought to the Manila Police District Homicide Section Mr.Eric Bautista, 28, and Jerome Lana, 18, both of Quezon Jr St., Sta. Cruz, Manila, turned for the killing of Fernando Mendoza, 17, of Barrio Obrero, Tondo, on the early hours of Jan. 1.

The two suspects will be facing murder complaints along with two others previously arrested, said case investigator Police Officer 2 Bernardo Cayabyab of the MPD Homicide section.

Benavidez and Lana opted to remain silent on the allegations, but they were positively identified by Mendoza's companions on that fateful day.

At around 2 a.m. on Jan. 1, Mendoza and five other teenagers got into a fight with Benavidez and Lana inside a jeepney on Rizal Avenue, where the guy were had slapped Mendoza after mistaking him as the sexual shell who had solicited "blowjob ang hubby d'to (Gusto nya sana)" (directed him to" when they boarded the vehicle.

The jeepney driver ordered all of them to get out at the front gates of the JRMSC at the corner of Rizal Avenue and San Lazaro II, in Sta. Cruz district, where the parties continued their brawl until where Lana called for backup nearby.

Lana had brought into the fight Police Private, 36, a mosquero, Dindo Benavidez, 41, a resident and Jeriano Duane, 32, a tricycle driver, all fellow residents of Quinsaida St., who reacted to assist the teenagers.

Seized from a TV footage of the incident, it was Duane who had fired a homemade gun at Mendoza, killing him with a bear shot to the chest.

Only Duane and Palacio were suspected for the murder as the city prosecutor's office on Jan. 2. There was not enough evidences to link the elder Benavidez to the killing, Cayabyab said.

But "the order of [Lana] who called for reinforcement from the other suspects in standing and shooting to death the victim constitutes conspiracy," Cayabyab said in his report.

Duane was arrested by police after he surrendered to him and Manager 204, Zone 23 chair Rosalie Constantin.

All four suspects are currently detained at the MPD Jail. Benavidez and Lana will have to square proceedings "as soon as possible," Cayabyab said.

THE TWO suspects cover their faces after surrendering at the Manila Police station run by barangay morning. MARK LLOYD DAZA

Echiverri mum on next moves

By Kristine Felice Mangunay

CAGAYAN de Oro Mayor Jaime Echiverri has so far kept mum on his plans with a day left before the Department of Interior and Local Government moves the suspension order against him and three other city officials.

Lester Jo Hiyolen, officer in charge of the public information office, told the Inquirer over the phone that Echiverri had not discussed his next moves, saying that he had not yet received a copy of the suspension order itself.

The DILG is scheduled to serve the order on Monday.

"What I know is he is ready. He is ready to face the music as he can meet accordingly," Nicolas said.

Asked if Echiverri would obey the order, Nicolas said he wouldn't want an all-out fracas since it had not been served in the first place.

"Let's wait until Monday," he told the Inquirer.

Last week, the appellate court upheld the decision of the Ombudsman to July which ordered the six-month suspension of Echiverri, city treasurer Reuben Sanico, budget officer Jovian Garcia and two others for alleged irregularities in the bidding of 17 engineers' contracts in the Governmental Service Insurance System.

The decision stemmed from a complaint filed by Vice Mayor Edgar Rivas on July 7.

Echiverri and his camp managed to obtain a temporary relief from the appellate court, but on Jan. 2, the CA 9th division junked the motion for reconsideration of the suspension order.

Meanwhile, the city hall grounds remained peaceful after the bombers set up by some 2000 residents to show their support for the mayor on Friday were removed later that day.

Tomorrow, steer clear of these Manila streets

From page A12

Manila Circle to T.M. Kalaw south- and southbound lanes)

- Southbound lane of Quezon Boulevard from Nagtahan Flyover to Palanca (subway, Jarman Bypass)
- Stretch of Lerma from P. Campa, left Recoletos, right Burgos, left T. Mapua to point of destination.
- All PUJs light vehicles coming from Espana going to Recoletos First Lane turn left at Nicanor Reyes, right Juan Luna, left at Recoletos Bridge, right Magallanes Drive to point of destination.

All vehicles coming from northern part of Manila intending to utilize the stretch of Bonifacio Drive southbound shall turn right Roberto S. Oca St., left Delpan, left Bonifacio Drive (for Port Area officers) or shall take right to A. Soriano to Magallanes Drive, right P. Burgos, go straight to Legarda to Taft Avenue.

All vehicles coming from southern part of Manila intending to utilize the stretch of P. Burgos shall take T.M. Kalaw, left Taft Avenue, right Ayala to Ayala Bridge to point of destination.

PUVoth vehicles coming from southern part of Manila intending to utilize the northbound of Roxas Boulevard shall turn right Quirino Avenue and take Nagtahan Bridge to destination.

All PUJs plying Mercedes-Gumil-Recto intending to utilize Andalucia through Pureza shall turn right Espana, right thereafter to point of destination.

All heavy vehicles cargo trucks coming from south shall take President Quirino, right Pureza, left Nagtahan to NLEX/Caloocan/Cubao/Ayala.

MetroBriefs

Cabbie loses money, cab

AN EMLOOP cabbie lost not only his money but his taxi too after a robber pretending to be a passenger pulled a knife on him Friday night in Quezon City, Eleuterio Bautista, 32, also lost his driver's license and other important documents to the robber. Police said the incident happened around 8:45 p.m. at the corner of Paraiso and Gumamela streets in Barangay Fairview. Bautista told police that the suspect earlier flagged him down along Balintawak Boulevard but asked him to take him to the place. When they got there, Bautista said the suspect pulled out a .38 caliber revolver and announced a holdup. The suspect then took the driver's wallet, told him to get off the cab, then sped off with the white Toyota Revo with plate number TAH 232. Bautista immediately gave a passing police mobile patrol car and sought help, but the taxi could no longer be found in the area. Julie M. Aurelio

Alcoapi is now IKU member

THE ASIAN Kennel Club Union of the Philippines, Inc. (Alcoapi) has added another feather to its cap with the acceptance as the newest member of the International Kennel Union (IKU), one of the most prestigious and largest dog federations in the world. Alcoapi chair and president Barry G. Salazar said the club's membership in the IKU reinforces the club's emerging and influential role in the Asia Pacific region after being accepted by the federation's General Assembly (FCI) held in Opatija, Croatia on May 29 with no. 330/2012. All with a total of 16 kennel clubs and members of www.alcoapi.com.

Don't mob the priests, church asks devotees

From page A11

In preparation for the hordes of devotees expected to attend, the Philippine National Red Cross deployed 30 safety marshals for everyone.

"Allow your family, Ensure that your house is properly secured before you leave. All electrical devices must be unplugged," the Red Cross said in a statement.

Children are also prone to getting lost, elderly, pregnant and persons who are sick should avoid crowded places thus, they are advised to stay at home and rest," it added.

The Red Cross said participants should have with them their identification card, medical information and emergency contact numbers.

"Wear proper clothing. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry and bringing expensive electronic devices. Avoid alcoholic drinks. Practice moderation and be careful with food," it said. "Drink a lot of fluid to prevent heat exhaustion," the Red Cross said.

If said devotees should also be aware of their location "at all times," avoid risky hazards and, if they encounter a problem, designate a meeting point in case someone gets lost.

"Maintain proper distance to avoid unnecessary injuries. Plan a safe exit path from the crowd. Know the location and means of access towards the nearest ambulance, police stations and other available authorities within the area," the Red Cross added.

Trader dies while in company of 2 sex workers

By Julie M. Aurelio

A TRADER died of an apparent heart attack while in the company of two sex workers the victim allegedly hired and brought to his house in Quezon City Saturday.

Police said they based on the statement by the two women, the victim collapsed twice to be sent about to have sex with them early Saturday morning.

Police declined to divulge the victim's identity or that of the women, citing the sensitivity of the investigation of the case.

Police said they are still waiting for the autopsy report as to the man's cause of death.

Investigation showed that the victim picked them up on Quezon Avenue in his car after they agreed to be paid P800 each for sex.

They proceeded to the victim's house where the women discovered that the guy was alone at home. Police said they were told that the victim's wife had left for abroad.

The women said that when he started to have sex with them, he suddenly collapsed. They sought help but he was already dead when the ambulance arrived.

RARE SIGHT
A cattle-drawn carriage filled with bundles is for sale in the city streets Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. MARK LLOYD DAZA

Missing girl reported

NOEMI Lagman

NOEMI Lagman of Multinational Village, Paranaque, and a student of Manila College in Magallanes, has been missing since Jan. 6. She was last seen in Jeep 9 and 10 a.m. at the entrance of the village which is near from Pres Philippines.

Lagman, who is 21 years old, 4'10 in height, uneven and of mid-heavy built, was on her way to school to enroll carrying with her a substantial amount of money. Classmates informed her family that they never saw her. Calls to her mobile phone proved futile. It couldn't be reached.

For those with any information about Noemi can get in touch with her father Noel Lagman at 09215681468 or her cousin Allan Capadocia at 09178879292.

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WORLDBRIEFS

Suicide bombing kills 26 in Syria capital

BEIRUT—A suicide bomber killed 26 people and wounded 63 in Damascus, Syria's interior minister said, vowing an "iron fist" response to Friday's carnage on the heart of the capital after similar attacks here weeks ago. Qatar's prime minister, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim al-Thani, said Syria was not implementing a deal with the Arab League aimed at halting violence in the country and that League monitors could not stay there to "waste time." An Arab League committee is due to meet on Sunday to discuss an initial report by Arab observers who are checking Syria's compliance with the plan to end President Bashar al-Assad's crackdown on nearly 10 months of unrest. Sheikh Hamad said the Syrians acting "required to pull out of Syrian cities according to the deal, had not withdrawn and that there had been no end to killing during the 12 days spend in Syria by the Arab monitors. *Reuters*

Implant clarification leaves women more confused

LONDON—The British government said on Friday that there was still not enough evidence to recommend routine removal of breast implants made by a now-defunct French company using silicone of dubious quality. But it also said that it would allow some 3,000 women who received the implants under the National Health Service to have them taken out and replaced free of charge if they and their doctors decided it was "right to do so." "It is undeniably the case that these implants are made up of non-medical-grade silicone and therefore should not have been implanted for women in the first place," the health secretary, Andrew Lansley, said in a statement. But his remarks did little to assuage the fears of some 40,000 other British women who unwittingly paid for the poor-quality implants during cosmetic surgery or dozens of plastic clinics where the bulk of the implants here were done. Responding to the announcement, which were supposed to clarify the government's position on the growing breast-implant scandal, many women said they were more confused and frightened than ever. *New York Times News Service*

Tymoshenko's spouse wins asylum

MOSCOW—The Czech Republic granted political asylum on Friday to the husband of the jailed Ukrainian opposition leader Yulia V. Tymoshenko, who said he sought refuge to prevent the authorities from exerting pressure on her through him family. Oleksandr Tymoshenko, the husband, left Ukraine late last year and formally applied for asylum shortly before the new year, said Nestor Lykosh, a spokesman for Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna Party. The Czech interior minister, Jan Kubice, speaking to journalists in Prague, said the ministry had approved asylum for Tymoshenko on Friday. Western and Russian news agencies reported Lykosh said earlier that Tymoshenko's chances had been good "because the whole world has acknowledged political persecution of Yulia Vladimirovna Tymoshenko is taking place in Ukraine, and all the European countries and the United States have condemned it." Tymoshenko has been warned as a defendant in criminal cases involving United Energy Systems of Ukraine, a company Yulia Tymoshenko ran in the 1990s. The cases have been reopened in recent months. Yulia Tymoshenko, 51, was sentenced to seven years in prison in the fall on charges that she had harmed Ukraine's interests by agreeing to pay Russia a high price for natural gas. Western governments widely condemned the case as politically motivated. *AFP/EFE*

US Navy rescues Iranians captured by Somali pirates

WASHINGTON—Just days after Iran warned them not to return to the Gulf, US naval forces in the nearby Arabian Sea rescued 13 Iranian fishermen who were held hostage by pirates for more than a month, the Navy said on Friday.

Navy officials said the USS John C. Stennis aircraft carrier strike group—the target of threats by Tehran on Tuesday amid heated tensions with the United States—said they freed the Iranians without firing a shot. The seven pirates believed to be from Somalia were taken prisoner.

The fishermen were seen hours after their dhow was boarded, according to officials with Washington and other western governments—over to nuclear program. The US State Department said there had been no official communication with Iran about the rescue, which it described as a "humanitarian gesture."

Iran announced plans on Friday to hold new naval exercises in the Strait of Hormuz next month, the latest in a series of barrelled gestures to the world's most important oil shipping line.

Iran briefly spooked oil markets in late December when it threatened to shut off the Strait of Hormuz if new US and EU sanctions halted its oil exports. It reactivated war games again this week by threatening to take action if the Stennis came back to the Gulf after it departed on Dec. 27.

"I recommend and emphasize to the American carrier not to return to the Persian Gulf," Iran's army chief, Major General Ataollah Salehi, said on Tuesday. "We are not in the habit of warning more than once."

At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta praised the Stennis crew's handling of the incident.

"It makes it very clear to [the Iranians] that—despite how much they object to or provoke us—that the United States in this kind of situation is going to respond as we should in a very reasonable and responsible way," Pentagon spokesman George Little said. *Reuters*

China news agency issues warning against US moves

SHANGHAI—China's state-run news media warned Washington on Friday not to "recklessly provoke military conflict" as it engages in "war mongering," a day after the Obama administration outlined a new military strategy with an increased focus on China.

The sharply worded commentary, published by the official Xinhua News Agency, also urged the United States to play a constructive role in the region.

President Barack Obama introduced a new defense strategy on Thursday, aimed at creating a leaner, more dynamic US fighting force with an enlarged presence in Asia and the Pacific.

Although the administration is seeking to trim hundreds of billions of dollars from the Pentagon budget, the president and Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta have said the United States will shift resources to the region because of its growing economic and military significance.

The United States had signaled its intention to bolster its military presence in Asia last month, and analysts say that has heightened concerns here that Washington is trying to counter China's rise.

Relations between the United States and China have often been strained over military issues, including the US decision to continue to sell weapons to Taiwan, which Beijing views as a breakaway province.

China has rapidly expanded its military in the past year, and plans to spend aggressively in the hopes of creating a military that can match the country's growing economic might. Last week, China announced ambitious plans to expand its space program and put a person on the moon in the next five years.

That news came as the US space program is drawing down.

China has also been busy rehousing information about its own advanced weapons and technology, including its first aircraft carrier and a stealth fighter jet.

The Xinhua commentary, published under the byline Yu Zhitao, does not represent China's official position on the Obama administration's new defense strategy, but because Xinhua is the official propaganda arm of the Communist Party, its editorials often mirror Beijing's positions. *New York Times News Service*

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Sunday BIZ

Betting big on budget hotels

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

OF THE seven children of the late industrialist Jose Ramon del Rosario Sr., it was easily his youngest, Jose Mari, who was able to stay with him when he was posted as ambassador to Canada, Germany and Japan.

The nine years spent helping his father discover his official duties impressed the younger del Rosario to the very core that the glamorous yet highly temperamental hotel world can offer, and he knew then that his career lay in the never-boring hospitality industry.

True, while his older brother, Ramon Jr., followed in their father's footsteps and pursued a career in the corporate world, Jose Mari continued on to Vevey, Switzerland to complete a diploma in hotel and restaurant management from Hotel Institute Montreux after graduating with a commerce degree from De La Salle University.

There was no looking back since, and Jet Rosario was able to chart an impressive career in the hospitality industry. He started out as a front desk receptionist at the Hotel Lancaster Palace in Switzerland and worked his way up to food and beverage coordinator at The Manila Peninsula Hotel, management trainee at The Imperial Hotel in Japan and was eventually named the Del Pilar's general manager and chief operating officer of The Manila Hotel.

Yet when the time came for him to unlock careers from one place to cosmopolitan to 1997, after going through the Emerging Managers Program of Cornell University in New York and getting his Masters of Science in Management from the Arthur D. Little School of Management in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he did not go the five-star route.

Del Rosario, who left The Manila Hotel after it was taken over by the Emilio Yap group to pursue graduate studies, surveyed the hospitality landscape in the Philippines and saw that the five-star hotel industry was limited and not contributing much to the development of the tourism sector in the Philippines.

The sector that he found more compelling was the affordable, no-frills segment of the hospitality industry that has for long been ignored and consequently underserved.

According to the father of four, a good number of today's travelers are not actually looking for the "bells and whistles" that come with the richest hotels, such as the toilet on the pillow or vacuum, the gliding elevators and the breathtaking view.

What most people are looking for, del Rosario says, are a comfortable bed, a clean bathroom and safety and security. They do not want to spend too much for their accommodation since they are out of the hotel most of the day anyway. They just need a place to sleep and literally and figuratively recharge their batteries before going off again the next day.

For the middle-market travelers that Del Rosario wants to cater to will not just stay anywhere, he says. They will want a brand that they can trust and voice consistency in service offerings.

This is why when the chance to bring in the Microtel brand, Del Rosario pounced on it, armed with his own savvy steadfast belief in his career and the all-important moral and financial support from his elder brother.

"I was able to convince Ramon to put in some money. He made a leap of faith for the sake of his younger brother," recalls Del Rosario with a smile.

Paramount Property Management Co. was set up in 1997, initially to provide property management services for real estate projects that were ramping at that time. Paramount, for instance, managed the Pilipinas office building and also the Cebu City Sports Club of the Ayala group, but just the next year, Del Rosario went back to his first love and his Paramount brought to the Microtel franchise to meet the demand for affordable hotel accommodations.

The first Microtel hotel was opened in Novaliches Lagro in Quezon City in 2004 and 18 years later, the chain has expanded into nine. Nine underway to open in four less more in 2012—one each to the expansion property of the Ayala Technohub in Quezon City, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Mega City in Cagayan de Oro and the former Clark Airfield in Pampanga.

And buoyed by the success of the Microtel branches in the existence spots of Boracay, Baguio and Puerto Princesa, Del Rosario says he is also looking on put up the Microtel brand in Pagbilao in Bohol and two more in Palawan.

"We are looking to expand in major crossroads and business centers as well as in tourist destinations," says the 54-year-old Del Rosario.

Del Rosario is bullish on the growth prospects of Microtel because he expects that domestic and regional tourists will continue to rule the field, and they will more likely go for the budget hotels and not five-star accommodations.

"In 2011, 75 percent of the guests are inbound[illegible] travelers and we see that continuing up to next year," he says. "Travelers from East Asia and North Asia are coming in strongly and they are not really looking for five-star but rather value as accommodations."

In contrast, he does not see the long haul jet set market coming soon to the Philippines because of the economic difficulties in the developed countries that have drastically reduced travel budgets of their citizens.

Del Rosario says one piece of evidence that Microtel is headed in the right direction is the interest invested shown by others

SETTING SE

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Dissertation: Ultimate hurdle a Ph.D. candidate must pass

By Dodet M. Velasco, Ph.D.

A TOPIC that used to be confined to discussions in the hallowed halls of universities has become part of late evenings in coffee shops, morning debates over radio or later, and unnatural arguments of commentators in print, broadcast and online media. Kudos to Marites Dañguilan Vitug through her book, "Shadow of Doubt."

It is therefore necessary for us one to earn a doctor in philosophy (Ph.D.) degree? This (from the Ph.D. is now conferred on Chief Justice Renato Corona by the University of Santo Tomas at the celebration of its 400th) year.

For this piece, the author interviewed four doctoral colleagues to shed light on the dissertation and Ph.Do: Diana A. Rebecca, JSE, Ann P. Lisson, Jr., PhD., Corazon Salazar, Ph.D., and Noel C. Tigbe, Ph.D.

What is a dissertation? A doctoral dissertation is a research paper of the highest level, in terms of wide-ranging research, depth of analysis and assurance of originality. It is supposed to be the penultimate achievement in one's education.

Professor and former Dean A. Dominic SJD (Doctor of the Science of Law), points out: "Equally for the J.S.D. degree, an admitted candidate must submit a dissertation that is a substantial contribution to legal scholarship." Speaking of the highest way to learn otherwise, she points out: "A dissertation is an example of legal scholarship that should make an original contribution, not just to the polemics subsisting within an academic discipline, but also, notably, to the very same society that an academic discipline seeks to

continued on page B3

enrich and serve in the first place."

"A dissertation is the ultimate test a Ph.D. candidate must pass," says Professor Jose B. Lucas Jr., Ph.D. (Communication), who is chair of the Graduate Studies Department of the College of Mass Communication of the University of the Philippines in Diliman. He adds: "It is somewhat like but is not exactly the same as a master's thesis. It is what is required for the completion of a graduate degree."

"Assumption and Exception economic conditions all require a dissertation as the culmination of a long exercise to get a Ph.D.," states Jose Lorenzo C. Tinsman, Ph.D. (Political Economy). She notes: "The person is an exercise that trains a person in the art and science needed in the academic world, as well as gives the person key skills necessary for various jobs in non-academic fields."

Dr. Tigbe asserts: "The dissertation is a journey; the Ph.D. student has to travel, settle in or face options beginning (the day he or she joins the doctoral program). The student will be the academic writers' during the dissertation process. The Adviser steers the boat; the student owns it. Overall, the dissertation process is the lesson not before one can be conferred a Ph.D. There are no shortcuts in this country."

Up close

Dr. Dodet holds two degrees, from Yale Law School—SJD earned in 2011 and Master of Laws, earned in 2000 for her dissertation, titled, "Sovereign and National Interest: Cosmic Sovereignty in Modern Treaty Interpretation."

Executive Read

Dr. Dodet's dissertation was awarded the Arsenio Gloria Prize in International Law. She's highest praise for a senior scholarship. She shares this distinction with (the only) other Filipino to receive this award—announcing "We Law School Alumnus, former Senate President and Dr. Jovito R. Salonga, in 1949.

(For our lay readers, please note the distinction made by Dr. Dodet's on various law degrees: The JSD is the highest advanced graduate degree issued by Yale Law School. It is different from Juris Doctor (JD), which is the other name for Bachelor of Laws (LLB). JSD also stands higher than Master of Laws (LLM). "For this reason," Dr. Dodet's stresses, "JSD candidates are expected to produce even more advanced graduate level contributions.")

Professor Lucas holds a Ph.D. in Communication Research from UP Diliman, after finishing his Master in Communication from the same school, and BS in Agriculture from UP Los Baños. On his doctoral work, he points: voluntary of the topic challenge, heralding effects of research and defending a dissertation. His dissertation topic, "Satellite Communication and Its Use by Various Sectors of Society," can be accessed at the libraries of UP.

Dr. Lucas is a respected academic adviser and specialized fields in communication, and is a firm believer in the intrinsic value of communication theory to direct and guide communication planning and execution, be individuals and by organizations.

Dr. Salazar earned her Ph.D. from the Australian National University in Canberra. Her topic, related her bachelor's degree in the center of political economy, titled: "Issues, Market Reforms and Rents: The Political Economy of Telecommunications Liberalization in Malaysia and the Philippines."

She finished her master's degree in Political Science from the UP Diliman, where she also obtained her bachelor's degree in the same course. She is currently Southeast Asia expert in one of the top management consulting firms in the country down under.

Dr. Tigbe holds a Ph.D. in Engineering, awarded from Tokyo University, with this dissertation topic: "Small Area Estimation and Spatial Microsimulation of Household Characteristics in Developing Countries with Focus on Informal Settlements in Islamic Manila." A licensed civil engineer, Dr. Tigbe earned his doctorate, after acquiring his M.E. and B.E. in Civil Engineering from UP Diliman.

No shortcuts

In fairness (in our author and sometimes profess their answers), there are some academic institutions which issue doctoral degrees (mostly, and with a definite degree) no multi-disciplinary value have contributed extensively to study and research in various disciplines. But that is the exception rather than the rule.

Dr. Salazar asserts that if there is no dissertation, and the doctorate is about "honorary."

"There have been many who have completed their doctoral course work and have passed their comprehensives," reveals Dr. Lucas. "But without the comprehensive research work, the students are what are called 'ABDs'—All But the Dissertation!" Dr. Lucas warned that on the third year of having an ABD—until I passed by dissertation on stakeholder relations!

"From my vantage point," says Dr. Tigbe, "there is no other way to find through dissertations. There is no shortcut. After all, the dissertation is the culminating event of the student's scholarly work. It demonstrates that the student has done extensive research on a particular subject of inquiry and has acquired mastery of the subject."

Dr. Tigbe quotes Simon Lee: "A doctorate is the very human, extensive, highly-focused, and advanced research problem or question."

Marshall: A dissertation contributes to the established body of knowledge, since every study is unique. It is not just learning "stories" of established knowledge."

In Addison's earlier theme: "A dissertation has to do that, otherwise it's a waste of time. If it doesn't add something new, or unique to a new legal learning that had always been viewed in a routine way, or challenges established viewpoints—then the study is not worthwhile."

Dr. Dodet's makes distinction: Considering in a body of knowledge is not a matter of unique to dissertations' done. The same can be said of many other types of legal writing and scholarship, such as journal articles, essays, papers, book chapters, opinion-papers, etc."

And yet, UP's summa cum laude is quick to add: "The substantiality of the contribution is what spells the difference between these forms of legal scholarship."

She has something more to say about legal scholarship—and her scholastic contribution is unmistakable. "As a professor, and as a scholar, my idealistic quests reflect my creative and identity social, political, cultural and economic phenomena in the nature, design, and processes of law and regulation. We constantly assess, theorize, propose and review, in my opinion, the better—ultimately for the benefit of the very same communities on whom such laws and regulations are imposed."

Finally, she says: "A dissertation can generate useful training and participation by future study, as well as many other forms of legal scholarship and academic outlook."

Rites of passage

Great accomplishments are preceded by great sacrifice. So it is for dissertations. The only reason Ph.D. holders have a tingling feeling every time they attach the "Ph.D." to their names is that the three letters were hard-earned and hard-won.

"What my late student was enlightened, seeing the many sleepless hours, the flash research papers, the voluminous interview results covering the large tables in book offset and the long, long wrestling to find for only three terms...—Ph.D.? I could only smile—with satisfaction. I am so humbled I was speechless.

(Editor's note: The author is the business/legal reporter/columnist of the Manila Bulletin, the chair and CEO of Country Data International Inc., Philippine affiliate of global PR firm with a franchise.)

Betting big on budget hotels

from page B1

real estate developers in the budget travel segment.

Megaworld Corp., SM Investments Corp., Ayala Land Inc. the Kidapawan group are just some of the 'big boys' of real estate development now developing or are set to develop budget hotels all over the country.

To prepare for the onslaught of formidable competition, Del Rosario says that Microtel would break on its years of experience in the sector, its track record for providing value-for-money services, location in key business centers, the backing of the Hotels group, to which Microtel owner belongs and growing marketing and distribution reach.

Mr. Del Rosario noted that Microtel's online presence is already reaping dividends for the company, saying that many travelers are now more comfortable about booking their rooms through the Internet. Online presentation will be combined with the usual sales calls as well as presence in important local and foreign trade shows to drive traffic to Microtel.

Jed Rosario concludes that Microtel has to remain nimble enough to quickly adapt to a fast-changing marketplace as he envisions competition to grow even more as more travelers around the world realize the tourism gem that is the Philippines.

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Changing lives with scissors and combs

LONG before corporate social responsibility became a buzzword, Isang Gunting Isang Suklay (IGIS) livelihood program was already changing lives throughout the Philippines since in 1994.

Today, nearly three decades later, IGIS is poised to play the nation-game—having provided free consolidated training involving in hair barbering, and even really livelihood, to more than 200,000 Filipinos—and counting.

In the last 27 years, housewives, out-of-school youths, homeless, jobless parents, and even grandparents have dropped by schools, basketball courts, and barangay halls to be hopes of learning a lifelong skill and providing a better life for their families with just a comb and a pair of scissors.

Trained by industry professionals who take time off from their own salon businesses, IGIS graduates now dress over 4,000 model units into a source of income—giving them a new lease on life, and the promise of a brighter future.

"IGIS is really all about empowerment," states two-term beauty expert, businessman, and civic worker Ricky Reyes, who spearheads the program. "Imagine a child who can't afford to go to school, but can now at least F2Fs himself. If they work hard enough, they can put food on their table and uplift their state of life."

IGIS is an initiative of the Filipino Entrepreneurs Cooperative (FEC) Group, which was founded under Reyes' leadership, initially to provide a home organization for hairdressers. Among its first projects was to give free haircuts to underprivileged communities.

"We realized that giving people haircuts was merely a dole out, especially when the recipient is a child," explains Reyes. "We thought that if we could teach people how to give haircuts, then we could jump-start some livelihood for the unemployed."

Working closely with local governments, government and non-government organizations in the different areas, IGIS has ventured as far north as Ilocos and as far south as Iloilo in the last 27 years, training even the handicapped and those in rehabilitation centers.

This partnership with the government has reaped some spectacular. "People all over's ask me if I haven't afraid that IGIS was being used by politicians," Reyes reveals. "I tell them that we don't really mind as long as we are able to reach out. If 3,000 people in one province were trained in barbering because a politician wanted it, well and good. If 3,000 people would potentially have a source of livelihood, then that is ok with us."

The classes cover various components of haircutting, including proper coping, hygiene, hair texturing, shading, cutting, and even perming. The classes are both theoretical and practical, where students are strictly graded and evaluated before they could move on to the next module and before they are awarded an IGIS certificate, a badge of honor in the local hairdressing industry.

"Livelihood + training = success." Finally, neighborhood salons to open up, evidence of how IGIS promotes socio-economic upswing," Ricky notes. "Some businesses even mentor me, and personally I don't mind. I myself started with just a comb and a pair of scissors, and I am glad I am inspiring people to work hard to create a better life."

Ricky himself is touched by how IGIS has changed the lives of many people. Once passing by a parlor in Baguio, he was caught by surprise when the hairdresser stopped in the middle of a haircut, stunned chatting, and ran outside.

"She recognized me with some bread from the bakery and unfolded in plastic bag, with tears streaming down his face," Ricky recalls. The guy put a big bag and told me he was an IGIS graduate. And then, in the corner of his salon, was a framed photo of us together on his graduation."

Seeing IGIS graduates put up their own parlor, or going abroad, or becoming professionals themselves bring so much fulfillment to Reyes and the IGIS trainers.

"We're gratifying to be able to help people, and we hope to continue IGIS for the years to come," Reyes asserts. "Through the decades, wars and more Filipinos have embraced IGIS, and the program continues to grow and give birth to hundreds of micro-enterprises."

From DH to IT outsourcing stalwart

MYND CONSULTING, a Switzerland-based network management outsource provider, was recently accorded membership into the prestigious Philippine Software Industry Association (PSIA).

The founder, Myrna Padilla, is considered to be a technology outsourcing stalwart, having built the company from nothing more than a drive to see the Internet to communicate with loved ones.

From providing simple graphic designs, Padilla grew her consulting firm into a full-fledged web design and development company targeting specifically social networking applications.

Mynd Consulting also provides social media management systems (SMMS) that allows clients to monitor multiple social media accounts. Eventually, the company has developed the OFW Watch Android Mobile Applications service to cater for OFWs to empower themselves and give them the capacity to help each other.

Also, Mynd created a service that provides their clients and programmers to develop CRM Industries.

At first glance, the affable but Ilcis Myrna seems to be a driven career woman who has achieved a lot in her life in technology entrepreneur. In reality, Myrna is one of the few inspirations who only chanced upon technology as a means to diversify a business.

Prior to being an outsourced business owner, Myrna was once an overseas Filipino worker—a domestic helper, to be exact.

Myrna grew up in a poor fishing village in Leyte, Bohol. She used to swim daily in open sea to collect seaweeds and seashells to sell. The money she earned would be used to buy food for her family. She has known hardship as a very young age but resolved to survive and help her family.

"Life was never easy for my family and I learned how to survive. But I thought that we shouldn't be living like this for the rest of our lives. I knew that only by moving away would we be able to change our lives," says Myrna during the PSIA's Inside General Membership Meeting held last December, where her company was also officially inducted as members.

In 1988, she traveled to Singapore then later to Hong Kong where she served as a domestic helper—a job she kept for 20 years. In the period of time, she constantly left empty, missing her family especially her two children whom she left in the Philippines.

While describe that her work as a domestic helper was essentially taking care of someone else's children first, so she could then take care of her own children.

Padilla shares his life with other domestic helpers living in Hong Kong, most of whom were fighting homesickness and emphasizes a Foreign land. She was attracted in the heart-wrenching stories of majority of her fellow domestic helpers in the hands of difficult and often abusive employers.

"If Filipinos back home loved from difficult life as the domestic helpers working abroad, they would not have wanted to leave, but the other domestic helpers also understood that going home was not an option as they had to put up with all the hardships," she asserts.

Prompted by what she learned from the appalling stories of her fellow kayans, Padilla set out in 1999 to establish the Mindanao Hong Kong Workers' Federation, which helped dozens of stranded OFWs working in Hong Kong. At the point in time, she learned how to use the Internet, utilizing technology to connect with her family back home and watching the name is her fellow Filipinos.

"I was blessed to have been taught how to use the Internet. It changed a lot of things in my life and I owe it to a great organizer, especially my Ambassador," says Myrna.

Since then, Myrna has continued to learn more about the Internet for a variety of purposes. She was able to put up her first BPO, the Mynd Tech Information Services (later becoming Mynd Consulting), in 2006. She also founded the International Federation of OFWs and Families in 2008 and later became the vice president of the Steno Software Industry Inc.

By virtue of her work, both for OFWs and for software development, she started to be a regular advisor to several corporate social responsibilities. One of them is the OFWS Microsoft. Today, a livelihood training program for returning OFWs. She was also named as the first global ambassador of the Volunteer.org's Digital Literacy Campaign.

Padilla continues her work as an advocate for social change among OFWs, connecting herself as one. One of her projects in the pipeline is an online monitoring and reporting system of OFWs who would want to update their family members of their whereabouts and other concerns. Once this update the service, simply called OFW Watch, through their mobile phones if they do not have their own computer.

"I see this as a way to prevent exploitation of our kababayans abroad. By using social media, we'll be able to link together OFWs and help them wherever we are. This is also way for us to aid the kind of people who, like me, have also toiled to get their families out of poverty," says Myrna.

Controversial Carlos 'Chuckie' Arellano book out soon

A BOOK about former Social Service System chair and president Carlos "Chuckie" A. Arellano is out in bookstores finished and will soon be available for public consumption.

Arellano, better known as "Chuckie," is a familiar name in both the government and business sectors.

As head of SSS starting July 1, 2004 during the term of former President Joseph Estrada, he was much talked about during his term.

He was specifically acknowledged and was likewise criticized for his bold and aggressive strategies in managing the funds of SSS, specially its investment in the equities market.

He is said to be the only professional fund manager to head the government institution.

His investments, however, have provided the SSS with unprecedented financial growth during his term and up to the present.

His valuable contributions not only to SSS but also to the funds will likewise be tackled in the book. Prior to his appointment to SSS head, Arellano headed the Trust Investments group as general manager and executive vice president of The First Trust and Trust Co.

The book will contain elaborate personal and recollings information about the art of wealth creation. Here the experiences and expertise of Arellano, a known stock market enthusiast and patron of visual arts, have proven to be works of art is also one of Arellano's most popular endeavors.

Through the book, readers will get to know more about this controversial man on a different level. Who would not want to know more about an individual who, in spite of the adversity, first plagued his administration, made an enormous and significant difference in every endeavor he is into?

A lot says times been said and discussed about him. But this interesting book, written by MBA thesis Mel Santiago F. Dumlao Jr., will give us a different perspective of knowing the real Arellano and learn from all the challenges and obstacles faced by the man.

Many people from various industries are definitely looking forward to this release of this book. For sure, the book will create another fury about Arellano and his magnificent performance in the business and public of sorts.

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Jan. 13	Thurs.	6:30-7:30pm	HANDLING SALES OBJECTIONS	Chique Escareal-Go
Jan. 26	Thurs.	1:00-4:00pm	AUTOPSY OF BUSINESS SUCCESS AND FAILURE	Josiah Go
Jan. 28	Thurs.	6:30-7:30pm	COMPETING TO WIN	Josiah Go
Feb. 11	Sat.	9:00am-12:00pm	EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP	Ric Abalos
Feb. 11	Sat.	1:00-4:00pm	EFFECTIVE COACHING	Ric Abalos
Feb. 16	Thurs.	1:00-4:00pm	PEOPLE SKILL & POSITIVE COMMUNICATION	Chique Escareal-Go
Feb. 16	Thurs.	6:30-7:30pm	MOTIVATING YOUR TEAM	Mike De Rueda
Mar. 7	Wed.	1:00-4:00pm	BRANDING FOR GREATER PROFIT	Peek Cal
Mar. 10	Sat.	1:00-4:00pm	DIGITAL MARKETING FOR SMEs	Donald Lim
Mar. 10	Sat.	6:30-7:30pm	E-COMMERCE FOR SMEs	Donald Lim
Mar. 27	Tues.	1:00-4:00pm	COMPETENT PRESENTATION	Reuven Uychoco
Mar. 27	Tues.	6:30-7:30pm	EFFECTIVE PERSUASION	Reuven Uychoco
Apr. 11	Wed.	1:00-4:00pm	ENTREP RESCUE (FREE CONSULTING)	Josiah Go
Apr. 27	Fri.	1:00-4:00pm	ANALYZING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MADE EASY	Sonny Velasco
Apr. 27	Fri.	6:30-7:30pm	CUTTING COST WITHOUT CUTTING CORNERS	Sonny Velasco
May 11	Fri.	1:00-4:00pm	SELLING TO SUPERMARKETS	Rony Macasaet
May 11	Fri.	6:30-7:30pm	EFFECTIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT	Rony Macasaet
May 21	Mon.	1:00-4:00pm	STRATEGIC INNOVATION FOR ENTREPRENEURS	Josiah Go
May 21	Mon.	6:30-7:30pm	FINDING YOUR NEXT BIG OPPORTUNITY	Josiah Go
June 6	Wed.	1:00-4:00pm	CUSTOMER RETENTION STRATEGY	Josiah Go
June 6	Wed.	6:30-7:30pm	HANDLING PRICE OBJECTIONS	Josiah Go
June 19	Tues.	1:00-4:00pm	MARRIED COUPLES WORKING TOGETHER	Josiah Go & Chique Escareal-Go
June 19	Tues.	6:30-7:30pm	EFFECTIVE MARKETING 101	Josiah Go & Chique Escareal-Go

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Sunday BIZ

Discovering the venture made of 'dirty chocolate'

Text and photos by
Cris Evert B. Lara
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Raquel Chua's childhood experience of pulping cacao fruit and pounding cacao seeds before turning them into tablea (blocks of cocoa powder) served as her inspiration in opening a business that produces cultural souvenirs.

Her exposure to the hard life in the mountains of Balamban in Northern Cebu made her realize that success is achieved with hard work and perseverance in primary values.

Chua formally opened Sulle Cocoatels in 2010, a venture she ventured with her husband Alfred and long-time friend, Ida Dimaano.

The name Sulle is a combination of the names of Raquel and Alfred.

RC supplies hotels in Cebu with pure tablea sourced from cacao seeds from farms through the Cocoa Foundation of the Philippines Inc. (CocoaPhil).

The product is all natural with no preservative and additive, says Chua, prohibitive and recognizable of Baliti Cacaotel.

The company now supplies to Pinnacle Suites Cebu City, Crimson Hotel, Radisson Blu Hotel, Cebu City Marriott Hotel, Waterfront Cebu Hotel and Towers and Spa.

CHOCOLATE products on display

RAQUEL Chua, president and co-founder of Sulle Cocoatels, says pure tablea does not include additives such as sugar, chocolate liquor and peanuts.

Chua and Ida were younger siblings born and raised in the care of her maternal grandmother, Lola Gaudencia.

She was only 7 years old, her parents separated due to personal differences.

Lola Gaudencia lives in a mountain barangay in Balamban, northwest of Cebu City.

"We literally have to cross several rivers to go to Sitio Elementary School. It was there that I learned how to make tablea," she tells Bandaylide.

Up in the mountains, she learned the tricks of tablea-making. Lola Gaudencia taught her how to sun-dry and roast cacao seeds. She went with her grandmother to the market to sell the finished products.

Growing up she enjoyed hot tsokolate (chocolate drink) from the tablea she made with Lola Gaudencia.

She progress for Grade seeing the hatred, a clay pot shaped like an urn with a winning road used for mixing.

Love blooded at her chemistry mate Alfred Chua, a Bachelor of Arts in Economics graduate. At 17, she had her first baby.

At 19, Chua has eight children—Michael Ray, Michelle Mishay, Anthony, Jonathan, Marvin, Alfredo Jr.II, Rose Angelie and John Paul.

She loves to cook and learn her husband, children and friends in a variety of food and sweets.

But there was no time that she would open a business involving the tablea.

"The tablea part of my life was already locked somewhere in my memory and there was no plan to revive it. I was interested in business but not in tablea," she confesses.

Local chocolate

In 2006, Chua and Pandino opened a garments business in the Chua's residence in Mabolo, Cebu City.

In 2007, they opened a small restaurant that serves native food.

But the house where their small enterprises were born was burned down in 2008.

Initially sans loan in the fire but it made Chua revisit her plans for growth.

In 2009, she was helping set up the menu of Carmen Copper for one event in Toledo City. It was the involvement that the late Norma, an Argentinian Norwegian-husband worked at the Carmen Copper.

They developed a friendship until the two decided to do business together. Norma proposed Argentina's olive oil, which she said is one of the world's best.

Norma asked her: "What do you have in Cebu that you can export to the world?"

Cebu has dried mangoes but Chua thought there is another product that would contribute to Cebu's status as the source of world-class products.

Then, she remembered the tablea.

Tablea revolution

Chua was unstoppable after that, says friend and business partner, Ida Pandino.

"We started meeting then in hotels. They would not believe her at first but she is determined," says Pandino.

Chua says some of the chefs would call the tablea a "dirty chocolate."

She took offense at the label but she considered it as a cue to explain what the tablea is.

"I know the process so I can explain it to them. In the end, they supported me. I convinced them and, now, I can sell my products," she says.

RC's tablea roll is now sold at Rustan's Supermarket. They also sell unbranded tablea that requires no labeling.

Up in the pipeline is a chain of kiosks called Tablea Towers.

With her children helping out in product development, Chua says they have also set up the Tablea Chocolate Patisserie which offers chocolate products such as pralines and chocolate sticks.

Her long-term plan is to also to source cacao seeds within Cebu.

To realize this, Chua goes back to farmers in Balamban.

The company now invests in a 10-hectare cacao plantation in Balamban, the place where Chua learned how to make tablea.

The Filipino as world-class managers

PRESIDENT Aquino led the awarding of the country's outstanding overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in his living room, movies in Malacañang Palace.

The Bagong Bayani Awards pays tribute to the country's outstanding Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) on the new heroes of our time.

Marco Torres, an associate director in EDS International, a leading Asia-Pacific architecture and design firm, is proud that Filipinos are said raw computer era is rife with foreigners in leading and managing in the workplace.

"I am real thrilled to receive recognition from my country and do me family, friends and my alma mater proud. I share this with all of them as well as the rest of the Filipino community in Doha, Wish we many gifted and very capable Filipino workers abroad, I am sure many are equally or more deserving. I am just grateful I was selected," Torres says.

Marco believes Filipinos have what it takes to be world-class leaders and managers.

"The Filipino is well-equipped for the global workplace," he says.

"In my five years living outside the Philippines, I have met many foreigners who speak very highly of the Filipino workforce. Filipinos are proactive, take the initiative and are willing to learn. We are also very amiable, which makes us great team players. In a world of collaboration and communication, we have what it takes. People are happy to work with us," Torres adds.

"THE FILIPINO is well-equipped for the global workplace," says Torres.

"They are also fascinated by our positive energy. We bring sunshine to the workplace. I remember meeting a Korean GM who was once stationed in the Middle East. He shared me this story. Once Christmas, instead of being depressed for being away from their families, Filipino workers were merrily singing in a group. With exception of alcohol, which was prohibited, he was amazed that people could be in such high spirits. Such is the Filipino worker, he chooses to be happy in any circumstance.

"We are not as wealthy as our Asian neighbors. However, our people, both rich and poor, are always able to smile. Our Far East Asian neighbors are so much more progressive, it is a reality though that there is so much pressure for them at work. These pressures have led to depression, and perhaps, the main reason they have relatively have higher suicide rates. On the other hand, Filipinos may be in dire straits but everyone can still smile. It is this spirit of pure optimism that we bring to the workplace. One never really realizes how happy and blessed we are as a people until one lives outside."

Torres, who has an MBA from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and an Architecture degree from the University of Santo Tomas, was a contributors during the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He arrived in Beijing many years ago with no connections and no Chinese-speaking skills. However, because of his commitments to do a good job, his hard work paid off. Aside from multiple promotions, he is now his company's global ambassador.

"My previous employers have asked me before, 'do you know of more people like you in the Philippines who can work for us?' As a workers, this to me is the biggest compliment both to me and my country. I hope I can continue to be a good role model for the Filipino workers in so doing, I can continue to help place others in good positions in the region from Beijing to Shanghai, to Hong Kong and Singapore."

In closing, Torres wishes to be able to use his recognition to achieve a better end for his colleagues.

The Bagong Bayani awards gives due recognition to the significant efforts of overseas Filipino workers who foster goodwill among people of the world and enhance the image of the Filipino as a competent and responsible worker.

The other 2012 Bagong Bayani awardees include an educator who helped bring the professional mathematic engineers board exams to Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries, seafarers who kept their vessels afloat during Japan's Kamagaraishi earthquake and tsunami, and caregivers who showed "heroism and loyalty" in the aftermath of the Philippines-wide disasters.

Power Situation Outlook
for Sunday, 6 January 2013

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
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Available Power (MW)	9,361	1,308	1,071
Power Reserve (MW)	1,535	453	-105

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IN THIS ISSUE
■ A. Gabriel Esteban—the first Filipino (and lay) president of a major American university /E1

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

JRS EXPRESS
YOUR PARTNER IN TIME

We'll remember these 'OMG' moments

From collagen and killer heels, to Midas Marqaez's moment and good old Filipino hospitality

HERE ARE my "OMG" moments of 2011. They're not earthshaking. They neither changed the lifestyle scene (we ran the Top 12 Lifestyle stories of 2011 last December 30) nor were talked about, but I'll nonetheless remember 2011 for them, culled from my lunches, disasters or cultural encounters.

• Collagen contagion. Like we said, 2011 was the year of "collagen-filler contagion" in Manila, sweeping both women and men. At a formal event, a woman—whose chin, cheekbones, and perhaps the rest of her facial map have been puffed up and reshaped with Picasso-style—walked up to me, in a violent attempt to confirm me to have the "filler" myself. "Claro," she said, grasping her face with her hands. "Don't you want to look like me?"

• Killer heels. It was an entertaining evening: a motley crowd was left behind on the terrace, then struggle to get back on her feet, in full view of an audience that could only let out a collective gasp, this was in those killer heels as she perched a long, ex-pentice down on the ramp. Why couldn't a man go by without a woman stumbling while on those torture instruments that passed off as shoes? Even models tumbled one after the other on the catwalk years ago (they were quick to get back on their feet, though).

"Can't I watch a show without having to cover my eyes?" a guy said, who couldn't stand the sight of girls slipping all over.

Women risk serious injury wearing those stratospheric heels, round the clock. Five to seven inches high or more is there to be made no sense, as whatever age or fashion trend. Chiropractors and orthopedic doctors have not been remiss in sounding the alarm that such foot contraptions could result in spine injury, apart from ankle, foot, leg injuries.

Apparently more and more women are becoming aware of the risk, or are scaling back the sheer discomfort of wearing high platforms. I notice more and more girls are in ballet flats, or are slipping into ballet flats after wearing those high-class for hours. There are chic foldable ballet flats sets in mall stores—like Butterfly Twists that originated in Notting Hill in the UK, Pumpybells or Tru Sauvas—which you can store in your bag then wear when you feel your feet giving way. There are even foldable flip-flops (Rhyalois).

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SLAYS at 30 alumni designers: Chito Vijandre, Rex Bolanos, Martin Bautista, Michael Cinco, Cesar Kaspo, James Reyes, Jojo Sunico, Eddie Abong, Carl Jan Go

DREAM GIRLS. Ann Curtis, Gloria Diaz, Lucy, ACC president Pedro Cuerva, councilor Margie Gruenberg

We'll remember these 'OMG' moments

From page C1

Just launched Ann Curtis makes an unlikely cash-dollared flip-flops called Bling Back to glam up any outfit.

Never mind a bag today should be without these folding fans in it.

In 2011, women proved they feet on the ground again...literally...simply because their feet hurt.

• **Alex Medina.** "Me, let's see?" Dr. Joyce Pascual, of a tourist district, dismissed the rumor that his favourite nephews, Supreme Court spokesperson Midas Marquez, could be gay. The naughty speculation came about after a news footage ran on YouTube showing Midas behind a bank of mics as a presser-ed and looking a rather effete gesture after a mic accidentally fell. The tyranny of the presser.

"That's not true at all!" Nyet said, laughing, when we asked him about the talk triggered by the video. Who'd know better than an uncle, right? Other than the wife, of course.

We remember Midas' wedding more than a decade ago, the iconic stylish chef-man. Its church and hotel décor was arranged by Team—a milestone style statement that set the trend for weddings all over the country. Its use of antique bell candelabras as reception tables, previous Philippine artwork and gold Tiffany chairs blazed the look for Philippine weddings to come. Even today, everybody was using Tiffany chairs, bell candelabras and Philippine artworks at weddings.

The ugly bell comes with the territory, when you're on camera (almost daily) and that good looking. Midas is in bed for by girls—and guys.

• **Mixed bill done at AFM.** The year ended, but the night of reconciliation didn't go with it. They're still everywhere. A BIT AFM in SF Penthouse seems to be a favorite of investidores and cognate—they're there, the next night. One morning, in the AFM Area Raleigh, a gal, a brown, showed her top two-bedroom town house, ocean view, on sale for for a hundred bucks. As I was about to buy she told me she had a school project and she needed P150, so couldn't give him that second. When I said "no," she snapped, "Di ka nalang sana sinabi," there was a shiny look, then grumbling, entreated to her corner by the AFM. I would've told her, but I would have let the money, and you should, too, with your ing coordinator.

This makes you wonder about the real, lure of mandatory jumping unregistered Filipino children...their low income skill is to crowd their pants to boy. It's the feeling that the owner owes them, even before they lean that money is earned, not doled out.

There's hardly any institution today not even DSWD, that's strongly focused on overchildren.

• **Trade in the Philippines.** Not exactly looking for its change. Recovery less miracle, a friend who has left a wheelchair for the leg, as he swims for into the sea. The feeling of numbness was going up from his leg to the thighs and he was in serious pain, so we had to switch-hit at the Festival the Pesalle. After pouring vinegar on the stiny Jo, M stalled Cesar Ledesma and we made such an Oriental-like massage. Like, he was all happy to see the tricycle with Ledesma.

Days we got to the clinic, we realized that in our rush, not one of us brought our wallet, as Cesar offered to pay the fare. In the Boracay Emergency Clinic the doctor prescribed some medicines, but since we didn't have the money, the clinic offered to advance the money for the medicines, which Cesar again offered to pay in the drugstore in the mall.

In short, we got by that day through the hospitality, generosity (of course, we paid everything back) and solicitousness of the locals and their smile—typical Filipinos who are naturally kind to strangers and people in need.

People ever ready to smile even amid unfortunate conditions, people going out of their way to be kind and gracious to strangers, people finding our dress even during emergency—only in the Philippines.

• **Watch that stretch talk.** I remember when Mark Higgins—the artist born of Intl. vacker Lita Higgins of Shine—said while sitting in as judge in the 2011 Look of Style Awards, what ruined the work of the young fashion designers rated talents. "Kid you are stretch talk here" he told the contestant, pointing to the waist.

Later, he said of many of today's young designers, "They need to sleep during rally. They take the short cut to correct clothes construction."

Apparently, instead of mastering the craft of pattern making, cutting, fitting and all that, these kids use stretch fabric, particularly at the waist and bodice...fits all, as they're told.

Fortunately, none of the Look of Style awards participants did, and Mark flunked the judging with his face beaming.

Mark is one of Salvacion's two children. The other is family a director of a firm being advertising agency. Since the two multi-over the reins of the 83-year-old library school of Fashion after their mother's death and the incapacity of their aunt, they haven't stopped promoting the high standards in fashion education which was their mother's legacy.

Last year, they staged the milestone set. Mark Hachero, Mitoi's notable alumni, from the likes of Joe Zulueta, Cesar Gaupo and Chito Vijandre to the recent graduates such as Ram Antolin. That was a standout show of 2011.

• **Parish these red panties.** As a year, how time flies; we had a get-together in a restaurant where we could have what in an old tattoo: Speaking of how else, she said that telling classmates was akin to exercise the panty-sweat of a female is being good luck to the senses...under all the female stuff in the canine floor wear not panties. And...to make sure that was strictly followed, a female manager would do a spot-ing inspection daily. One manager friend who ripped them wearing red underwear because she didn't work on the floor.

We don't know if any of today's breed of traders, runners, fullers, tire and underwear brands. Who said the Chinese New Year

CEBU Ara Council chief includes Chito Lopez, Marlou Ferrer, Margie Daniela Bautista and Mamma Mia.

ENTER ACTIvists Yeng Ylaya Agustina, Dr. Fer Mes, activist Jonas Burgos, Gerardo Lanchin, Candida Rae Subido, Bing Calderon, ACC trustee Angelina Besana, Chicago Angelina Dy, Rola dy and Margot Villarba

HIT FAIR LADY. Ara Council trustee Tessie Mendoza and trustee-actor Yeng Ylaya Dong

THE ARTS. Councilfie.ate was "Chorus Line," on bet.

• **Sayina at 9:30 am.** Imagine yourself just done with an early breakfast and you're going back up to your hotel room, presently full but stand-still-but asleep. The lift's door opens and right before you is Korina Sanchez, looking so fresh, beautifully made-up, her hair a glamorous bronze of waves. In the morning, even before a cup of coffee! How on earth does she do that?

That was exactly what happened to some morning last month, in waves in Davids, who chose did the "Mamma Mia" tour with Korina. How does she do it...stun stare was the fantastic that has become her trademark on TV...we asked her in our turn, holding a bloody-eye before noon a shot to to set of martyrdom. "Banana heat hair secret. You're done to minutes," she told us about the short-hair contraption for women with long hair and curly hair that she swears by.

In a season when long wavy hair remains the trend, we will try this out. But apart from that contraption, Korina must have that unbelievable energy to be able to shoot the story...whatever story could be had in Zurich—from morning until dusk—and then some. Later, we saw her on the set, while we were content just watching the evening performance of "Mamma Mia," which, by the way, opens in Manila on Feb. 16 at the CCP. The whole international tour cast and a phone-load of sets and theatre infrastructure will be flying in in the entrance of Lunar Year, with Korina.

• **Only in Cebu.** After Zurich, last month we flew to Cebu even before we could catch our breath. We knew it would be worth it—just to watch Cebu's movers and shakers proclaim Broadway fare in the much-mentioned final issue of the Arts Council of Cebu. That's the call every Two years. The ACC officials, led by president Petee Garcia, Margot Gruenberg, Jaime Elizalde and our friends Marissa Ferrer, Gloria Lopez, Teresita Mendoza-Lim, and friends of friends, rehearse for months. Ups over their vocalists, and hi-ver stage pillars just to ensure the performances are at their best.

This numbers covered the whole lot—from "My Fair Lady," a number to extend the style maven Teresita Mendoza-Lim, to "Mamma Mia." As one of them said, it's the best way to close Santo—"Your friends and family pay to watch you, your creative days pay to watch you."

Barbie charm school

BARBIE PRINCESS Charm School event will be on Jan. 21 at Robinson's Mall. Visit courtesy of Robinsons Estates.

The day-long affair offers young girls the chance to be princesses for the day with morning Barbie workshops and accompanying activities. It starts at 10 a.m. with photo opportunities and has food and body glitter art activities within available for young girls to enjoy.

A series of one-hour Barbie classes is ers, little ladies to learn and master various social graces from Days 1-5 p.m.

The Princess Etiquette Class allows tips on courtesy and dining etiquette, among others, while style and glamour tips will be taught in the Princess Beauty Class. Finally, the Princess Art Class will have girls explore their designing and creativity skills as they make their own tiaras.

Customers can avail of a Barbie Class Pass for any of the one-hour Barbie classes with a sample-design purchase from the 2011 Barbie Fall/Winter Party Collection worth P1,500 from the Barbie Robinsons Children's Wear Department and Barbie Boutique.

To score your receipt to any Barbie fashion collection in the Barbie Robinsons Children's Wear Department and the Barbie Boutique upon purchase to register.

Barbie apparel is available at Robinsons, SM Megamall, SM Mall of Asia, Trinoma, Festival Mall and Greenbelt.

A bucket list for the new year

Here are the things I hope to accomplish for the person I hope to grow into after a year

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Rubio-Icabalo

"We must let go of the life we have planned, so as to accept the one that is waiting for us." —Joseph Campbell

AT THE BEGINNING of every year, I say to God in a round that I hold on to like a peg for the rest of the year. Let me answer that—I don't go searching for the word, it manages to find me.

In years past I found the word through messages, passages written by favorite authors or sometimes, from scripture. "Humility under" was my word for 2011. Many challenges stretched my spirit and tested my patience; they deepened my faith and strengthened my heart.

This year, it's not one word, but a phrase... "Finally, get on, go..."

This year 2012 is the year of the dragon. If you were born in the year 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, this year is your year, too! I feel very positive about the next 12 months and, by His guidance and grace, I pray that it will be so.

The last year was filled with so many challenges for me personally, but as a current, and for many generations, heritage that was precisely the reason why "surrender" was given to me...so that I would learn to stay still in the eye of many storms, and simply allow things and life to unfold as it must, trusting in the process and believing that all would be well in the immediate, and future.

On the first month of the year, I'm taking off for a couple days for quiet time, for giving thanks for all that had happened. At the same time, I will try to draw up a bucket list of the things I hope to accomplish for the person I hope to grow into after a year. Errands, after all, must be done, and I want to try a couple that never ends. I have learned that when you ask, be so specific as you can be because if it's part of the bucket list for you, it will definitely happen.

I harvested over my year-end and took a look at my bucket list for 2011. I had "scored" 7/10. I didn't reach my goal of finally finishing my graduate studies, speaking at an international grief conference, writing a second book and finding a job I love.

The bucket list is somewhat proof that stopping just to think and asking the Lord to make your dreams come true are never a futile exercise. What if the three unfulfilled items are my fault? I don't consider them unanswered. The fact that they did not come into fruition is the answer itself. God might be saying, "Not yet," or I'm not going to argue with that.

"Finally, get on, go..." indicates to me that it is a season of preparation for greater things to come. Of pulling the mind, body, heart and spirit ready for dreams to take flight. Where 2011 found me lotting go of a lot of baggage that had weighted me down for many years, and in the process wreaked havoc on my weight, it's time to travel light now.

Where you go is so far my age (I'm a dragon, do the math), you become more sensitive of the things you've seen out of life and out of relationships. You learn to speak up, and you learn to protect yourself from emotional vampires unless you want your physical health to suffer.

True friends

Dr. Christiaan Barnard, best-selling author of "Women's Bodies, Women's Wisdom" (a must read for every woman) above 40, said it best: "Keep spending time with the wrong people. Life is too short to be with anyone who sucks the happiness out of you like mayonnaise floats a boat. If someone wants you in their life, they'll make room. Never fight for a spot or sell yourself to someone who overlooks your worth. And, it's not the people who stood by your side when you're at your best, but the ones who stood beside you when you're at your worst that are your true friends."

Her words remind me of a woman I know who ended a 23 year marriage. One thing she said brought home the point of how important it is for people in relationships to say as much as to feed and mind-feed always of the things they say to one another.

She said, "Over the last 23 years, there had not been a single day when I woke up and was not greeted by a compliment of some sort. I can hardly recall sitting through a meal where a complaint was not voiced. Sure was the day when I would not fall asleep to the sound of his voice complaining about something..."

Nowadays, she says, when the children are not with her, she savors her solitude. "I've learned the value of silence, waking up to the happy sounds of birds outside my window, and enjoying the sunrise in peace. It really isn't lonely at all."

God loves to spring surprises for us. Bucket list in hand, when we think we have it all planned and figured out, He allows in His divine wisdom, unexpected detours, which sometimes are difficult to navigate, but always, without fail, turn out to be the safer and smarter route—routes to get us where we need to go next.

And so, our journey on. Here's to a blessed and joyous 2012!

E-mail the author at cathybelindo@gmail.com. Follow her on Twitter @cathybelindo

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Despite everything, this foreigner loves it in the Philippines

Isn't that what makes us interesting? We are like nobody else—a people who are neither here nor there

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Manzarde

DEAR EMILY,

As an avid reader of your column in the Sunday Lifestyle of the Inquirer, I am amazed at how contradictory a society the Philippines is. I am a resident foreigner in this country, and it confounds me how vile the level of dentistand hypocrisy is. Case in point, your latest column, entitled "Amazed at Illicit relationships among OFWs."

Why do people have this notion that the Filipino is this God-fearing, value-laden person oblivious to human desires and temptations? This image is such a blatant lie! It would be better for Filipinos society to stop hiding under this veil of naïveté and godliness. And hiding behind the guise of poverty is equally not justified at all, given the sums of the drug trades in China, the high corruption index, daily murders, etc.

The mind-set of this society should break from the yoke of "naïveté," "godliness" and "ignorance" because it is a total farce. People here are very individualistic, and the sense of "community" is just a cover spot to take advantage of politically, economically and socially.

The Filipino is just like any other people in the world where there are promiscuous, erotic and sexual aspects—in spite of believing in both dimensions.

In sociologist...[illegible] how this society carves for attention and identity that it would honor a gambler as a sports hero, accord religious rites to a suicide victim (against the Church's rule on this), disregard the head of the church of not practicing abstract efforts to curb cases of HIV and AIDS, yet it accepts the flaunting of barely covered girls on catwalks and tabloids.

If celebrities (just who are promoted to the popular media, per them) are no activists for gay rights. And what about the conspicuous fact that foreigners with supposedly a drop of Filipino blood, whose parents don't even identify themselves as Filipinos?

I say wake up and smell the coffee. This society needs a real awakening as it subsists on "mediocrities." Otherwise, it is a wonderful place and I love it!

D.E.

So, isn't that what makes us interesting? I'd like to believe that we are like nobody else—a people who are neither here nor there. Barely Asian anymore—gasping from the pressures of modernity and probably democracy, and wanting as much to be western...but still shackled by traditions and beliefs that just can't get away from the national psyche.

We've been called "shallow," "great dancers," "brown Americans," "can't" and probably many more names that haven't drifted our way yet. They are all probably true—but still, I wouldn't want to be anything but! There's nowhere else in the world like this place. And I'm proud to be us.

There are of course exceptions to these, as there are no absolutely perfect people anywhere. We have murderers among us, thieves, hypocrites, adulterers, scam artists, crooks, mentally challenged, sexaholics, tattoo it, and one of us is probably it. But, we are those to the other four continents that let it not be said that we are not a nation of heroes, great and simple, though they're nameless pretty much relegated to the back of our modern consciousness.

Many of us have left and many more are dying to leave but wherever we go, and whatever we do, we remain what we are—a people who are neither here nor there. One people. Or anywhere here and abroad, and that intrinsic hospitality seems to be free. A bed will be given up for you, food will be put on your plate and we will graciously accept you if needed. Just don't push your luck in the end.)

Many of us who left and vowed never to come back, came back.

We complain, we moan. We hate hell and curse this place for the many inefficiencies and inadequacies, perceived and real, and wish we could change them all in a snap. But we settle down and beat it because, despite the lack of whatever it is that is lacking, it's home. It's comfortable. The friends you have make time for you and are easy to talk with and understand and relate.

It's interesting here. That's why you love it here.

E-mail emanzarde@inquirer.com.ph or emanzarde2004@gmail.com. Subject: Lifestyle

MATTE beadwork and silk thread embroidery provide "glint and glam" to the barong creation. A necklace of rare gemstones by Zarate Austria enhances the stylish look.

LIP CARE. Ace embellishes on the collar and cuffs enhance the luxurious look of Lito Perez. Electrician Jhorge Ian Mark Jumawan, the perfect model for the designer's Filipino pride, flaunts the barong's fine workmanship.

Lito Perez sets his continental Ilustrado-inspired 'barong' in historic Pila

By Zarate A. Austria
Contributor

FOR THIS special shoot that pays tribute to Kasaysayang Pilipino, Lito Perez, president of the 30-year-old Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines, brings back the high-style luxury of Barong Tagalog as worn by the elite Ilustrado class in the Spanish era.

"They were men of cosmopolitan style," says Perez of Camp Sakdalista, "who traveled frequently abroad, usually in Europe, and were up-to-date on the latest in menswear and male grooming."

Thus, the "new" look of Perez's barong designs reflects strong continental influences.

"It's inspired by the stately silhouettes the European aristocrats wore at the turn of the century. The collar is high and standing to give the wearer a dignified appearance, the embellishments rich and elaborate, and the fabric elegant as our piña," says Perez.

To contemporize his collection, Perez layers the barong dress to the body and uses colorful shades of piña embellished with embroidery and beadwork. For a metallic blush piña barong, for instance, he uses white lace embroidery to accentuate the cuffs, with number of pearl snaps for buttons.

On a yellow piña with amber silk thread embroidery on the bodice, Perez uses a beaded gold brocade on the collar and on the loose, batwing-cuffs.

The perfect setting for the colonial-inspired collection is the historical town of Pila, Laguna, famous for its grand period houses. According to Philippine historian Dr. Luciano Santiago, Pila is the only town in the country that is formally recognized as an important historical site by the Church and the State.

In 2000, the National Historical Institute of the Philippines declared the town plaza of Pila and its surrounding colonial houses a historical landmark. The town has 55 well-maintained, turn-of-the-century structures, of which 28 are ancestral.

In 2002, the Diocese of San Pablo proclaimed the parish church of San Antonio de Padua de Pila as the Diocesan Shrine of St. Anthony. It is the first Franciscan church in the Philippines and was built by the Franciscans who arrived in Pila in 1578 to spread the Catholic faith.

This shoot was done in the old Mondejo's unique Asian-inspired garden house in calpi and bali, and in Dr. Modesto Rivera's ruins of the century-ancestral home.

RELIVING the look of the Ilustrados in a black piña barong set against the ruins of the century-ancestral home of Dr. Modesto Rivera

LITO Perez combines light blue scallop embroidery and silk thread ornamentation for added rumors.

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MARQUEE Abreeza

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Sexy. Stimulating. Sage. Survivor
SHARING THE VOICE OF AGE AND WISDOM

Gilda Cordero Fernando

FOREVER 81

An overabundance of loyalty

In a gesture of gratitude, I had given three of them their full retirement pay even if they were still staying on. It was draining me

"URBAN Flow," artwork by Gilda Cordero Fernando, owned by Raymond Lee

WHAT I didn't realize until recently was that servants grow old, too, not just me! And that their aging cost a lot! You see, my husband died recently. He had been sick for eight years, which necessitated a lot of hands-on deck. But suddenly I was by myself, and they were just too many.

There were two drivers... one on standby in case I was to disembark, or to the endless hospital procedures he had to undergo. Al

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A beautiful soul

By Cinchi G. Lloren
Contributor

DEAR FRIENDS,

In June of 2011, while our family was (fortunately) gathered in one place (in Bacolod), we took pictures for use in our usual photocard we'd send out in December.

In November, I started to write our 2011 Christmas newsletter with the intention of mail mailing the cards and the letter before the year ended. It is a common practice (in this age of rapid communication via the Internet) I am not quite ready to give up, because "one day" I just might find the energy and—more importantly—be content to fill the hard copies of the letters I have written year after year chronicling significant events in each year, to have the whole letbound to give the grandchildren in consecutive of a life well spent.

The 2011 letter began with the story of how and the year started, with news of the illness of Sonia, the papa of Pablo (our eight-year-old grandson), and how we grieved her passing in April.

While news (from June and almost of tsunami, nuclear disaster, earthquakes, floods, wars, famine, disasters, financial meltdowns, Senate hearings, corruption, destruction of the beauty of God's creation), and senseless killings brought more grief, fears, woes and anger, I knew I was not going to write a single line about any of those, since instead of sadness, I had a joyful story to tell.

Our Christmas letter was going to be all about Stanislaus Lacia, who came to our life on the wings of the most joyous news he'd known: our daughter Jennie and her beloved husband Javy.

Lacsina is all sunshine on a gloomy day. Now at seven years he...she can easily woo love and break into a big smile when she sees that you enjoy his company. His giggle is infectious.

Both Javy and Jennie know they were blessed to have two amazing sons and then a precious daughter. They were determined to keep these blessings sacred and protected from harm, maybe the same way we protected our daughters from the day we learn we were going to have them.

No harm

When I carried our daughters, I didn't take pain killers for headaches. I tried to eat healthy, stayed away from smokers. Juan Miguel and I prayed hard that no harm would ever befall them. We tried to protect them from mosquito bites and scrapes and made sure they got the proper vaccines for every known disease.

When they started noticing boys, we warned about heartaches. I cried each time one or the other daughter's heart was broken by some stupid and heartless heartbreaker in order to help them through some hard times. I tried to make them understand that those worthless heartbreakers can make them stronger in meeting bigger ones. I wasn't really sure what "bigger ones" were, but only had an idea that it could be a bad marriage.

When Jennie fell in love with Javy, we prayed for the love to be real and mutual. When they got married, we prayed that the marriage would endure and be blessed with children.

We thanked God for answering our prayers. Jennie could not have found a more loving, thoughtful, tender and hard-working husband than Javy.

He rejoiced when they had their first child—Pablo, who has his father's looks and keen mind. Three years later, Agustin (Gus) came. Gus inherited his father's caring and gentle heart. On May 18, 2011, Damrose was born, and all together they created an ideal family, totally thrilled from heartaches by the sheer power of their love for each other. What mother could ask more for her daughter?

Jennie and the children arrived from Bacolod on the 19th of December, ahead of Javy, who had to finish up some last-minute work. He was supposed to arrive on the 23rd to help Jennie do some last-minute shopping.

On Tuesday, the 20th of December, our world was thrown off course when Jennie received a call from Javy's brother that Javy had "fainted."

Javy was with seven others when s/he rode five ATVs and three motorcycles from Bacolod to Kabankalan. Somewhere during the trip, Javy expressed that he was getting tired after he tried to free his motorbike from being lodged in the mud. He "fainted" and was brought to the nearest hospital on board one of the ATVs.

Dehydration

After maybe an hour of waiting for definitive news on Javy's condition, Jennie received the devastating report that Javy could not be revived. Possible cause: dehydration, and an heart attack).

It suddenly occurred to me that with all the emotion against heart I had given Jennie, I failed to include preparedness for the loss of a loved one which could break her heart as thousands of punch-cut to pieces. Who would have thought that Jennie could lose Javy and be a sorrowful widow at 33, left with three children without their father to laugh and play and be foolish with?

The testimony delivered by two of Javy's closest friends, Carlo Cruz and Carl Carlos, validated our appreciation of the beauty of Javy's soul, now forever in God's embrace.

Dennis Javy's own parents (Giging and Richie), brothers Chris and Cando, and sister Tina are in deep grief over the loss of a beloved son, a dear brother. But I must tell you: Juan Miguel and I have been shedding so much tears.

Thank God for the constant presence of three of Jennie's dearest friends, Marivic, Tessy (both immediately flew in from San Francisco to be with Jennie), and Dani, and the indefatigable support of our rock and comfort, dear sister Monica, who flew to Bacolod with Giging to bring Javy to Silang. The first three months of without Juan Miguel and me falling apart with grief.

Now it's time to thank you for your presence, your expressions of sympathy and your prayers which gave us comfort during our time of sorrow.

May God bless you all.

Cholo

In loving memory of
Juan Javier Jolumbert Garcia
May 22, 1973-Dec. 20, 2011

JAVY with cons Pablo, 8, and Agustin, 3

JUAN Miguel and Cinci Lloren, their daughters Monica and Jennie with husband Javy and their three kids

JAVY with daughter Sarmina at 4 months

Who would have thought that Jennie could lose Javy and be a sorrowful widow at 33, left with three children without their father to laugh and play and be foolish with?

Resolutions require a struggle

Some are born of life-threatening situations. I quit cigarettes 40 years ago because of a cancer scare

Manyang Ordoñez

GUT FEEL

MONDAYS!!! resolutions are iffy. Only time will tell, because they demand a struggle.

Pilferin dingyan "Dust Devil" sounds so chic, it makes struggle sweet. Especially if it's Michael Jordan who says it. Here is unsigabucks sports superstar.

Meritocracy is the enabler of well-deserved success in life. We've got to commit to it—not to our beguiling rights "but he is" in a rule of life, whether we pursue material or spiritual goals.

Some resolutions are born of life-threatening situations. I quit cigarettes 40 years ago because of a cancer scare, and smoking giving my angina pause.

Traumatic events can trigger resolutions. A friend stopped, cold-turkey, his mental infidelity when he realized the horrendous mental torture suffered by his wife and children.

Encounters with the mystical can result in resolutions. I've met someone who underwent a near-death experience. While comatose, his spirit levitated toward the pearly gates, only to hear a voice telling him to go back because it was not yet his time. When he recovered, he decided to devote most of his years to doing humanitarian work in a hospice for the terminally ill.

In ancient Greece (circa 600 BC), the Spartans practiced regimented physical and mental training to build an invincible warrior culture. Spartan discipline is still practiced today by professional military academies like West Point in America and the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City.

Ritualized

In the Christian world, struggle is ritualized. They become elements in the process of penitence, atonement for the Old and New Testaments and required by doctrine.

"He (or prefers us your Father to become perfect."

"If you want to follow me, take up your cross daily and follow me."

Self-control is essential in avoiding sin. With Catholics, the struggle for self-denial is fulfilled with more affection, fasting or giving up pleasurable activities during the Lenten season.

Many individualists and secularists eschew the idea of struggle, frown on absolutes, using the logic of hormones, in preferring many privileges and pleasures in today's multi-choice consumerist society, various regard for the sanctity of the past, human dictation of time-honored ethics, and atomization (disregard for ecological issues).

Max Cavalcanti is the narcissistic and hedonistic drum being bat in the edge of materialism. Ultimately, it's his free will that will save or doom him.

St. Augustine (Bishop of Hippo 395 AD), philosopher-theologian, influential and doctor of the church, underwent a gut-wrenching soliloquy with God to good return evil. He talked passionately exposing his soul, related to his struggle with sexuality. St. Augustine worshipped God with reason for strength, intellectually blending the genesis of faith and reason. Excerpts from the confessions of St. Augustine:

MANILA STANDARD D2

An overabundance of loyalty

From page D1

as refuge for hard-to-find, sometimes the very things a lost cat most desired.... and deserved.

It was loyal and trusted Ami who helped me with the cats. She had been with Dad and me for the past 30 years—more from dinner and until wee-hours, to weeches, to kids' woes, to cook, and finally Dad's caregiver. She stayed to take care of me, too, until I died.

Of course she'd remain. He would Christmas, with no only two years. One disaster after another—credit card, mangle the computer, eyes, e-mail and push my wheelchair in the mall.

I let go of the more recent duties. I kept Gilbert, Ami's driver, who had been with us 18 years and wanted to stay. In a few months he turned 60, was able to collect his SSS pension and received full retirement pay from me. Soon, however, Gilbert had several bad attacks of gout. He asked to retire. I had to hire a new driver, quick!

It was months after the new driver had been trained, he had a long bout of flu. And then he resigned! My heart sank at the prospect of having to acquaint another new guy with the streets and the convenience places I want to.

At mind, I asked my retired driver, Gilbert, to recommend a new one. But he said, "Sir, so long for Rebekah no long okay!"

Against that I was just so relieved and said yes, yes! He asked me for a raise. I made him swear on a stack of Bibles that he would not ask me for another retirement package when he retired again (!). He swore.

Two precious

As part of our busy household, I also have a gardener-handyman who had been with Dad and me for another nine years. My could garden, do masonry, paint, clean the numerous window glass panes and do small household repairs. He was too precious to let go. Besides, I shared Ali's salary with my neighbor son in the compound.

Ben and Christine could easily divide the new reduced work between them. They left Malta, the vandevenmans, out in the cold. Nelia had been with us 16 years. She was illiterate and barren (useful or sisapre when she insisted lived in the big iron outside the side. Nelia was a plump sexy mandaluyong and about 20 kinds. But she was never tempered and gentle; we all loved her. It would be difficult to let her go.

"Why me?" asked Nelia, sobbing in my youngest son when he came to visit. "If he comes with it all alive today I wouldn't be going home." Precisely! But I still felt guilty.

I, too, had imagined myself as my daughter's surrogate mother, and just by family, but all the fateful help. Now it has narrowed (an extravagant a thought. In a gesture of gratitude, I had given three of them their full retirement pay even if they were still staying on. It was draining me. I couldn't be draining out more money with nothing coming in. Nor could I afford to run an old folks' home.

In the past, my mother's younger driver, Agron, had been bequeathed to me when mama died. He was an old bachelor, by then crippled, with no family to go home to, and so he stayed with Dad and me until he died.

Nelia has been gone about six months now. Within the first few months, all her contemporary pay was wiped out. She had retired Ben, borrowing money. Her cousin, Beni, supplanted that Nelia's husband was a fisherman and has no income anymore. Their daughter and her husband, who earns nothing either, lives with them. So does their son, also jobless, who is getting married. They used to rely on Nelia's salary.

It's the story of all the poor in our country. It breaks my heart. What will they eat on Christmas Day? So I sent Nelia a full Christmas bonus even though she no longer works for me.

We've been lucky my friends call me. To day it's difficult to find help where you lose one. They'd rather have white collar jobs or try to get employed abroad.

Lucky? Maybe I am. If I weren't so old, if they weren't so old, hmmm.... Let me think about it.

A tribute to household help

Lani once put onions in the 'adobo' and froze the fruit salad. But she very seldom makes mistakes now. Indeed, I'd wish a Lani in everyone's life, especially in one's senior years

Chit Rucio

NOT QUITE THERE

I DON'T know what came over me, but after years of retirement from kitchen duties, I found myself doing Jose Gallego for noche buena. And once I got started (I felt driven to cook so).

It's not something to be so energetic in a messy-like manner in a modernistic kitchen like mine, no small to take more than one regular cook and more than one regular meal, at it happened, my ambitions would grow to two as there family feast. In fact, without Lani, my blessed all around help, I wouldn't have dared. She reduced my participation to virtually supervisory.

I watch her distinguish a redone me have opened bureaus, the kitchen and the dining space, itself a part of the living room). Supervision consists of attaching up from my chair and walking a few steps now and then to see how things are going, and giving the dish some minor flavor adjustment for a little more salt or was realized with the matching aprons worn—shoes, bag, watch or shawl, and something for her hair. She was also Mom's Lani in the kitchen.

When I started losing and couldn't find another pair to double-date with, a standard pregnancy of the time, Tinseltown came along as my chaperone. She eventually fell in love her self, with the driver, and left with him. Mom had more friend and fried maids without ever finding another Tinseltown, and life was just never the same for her.

My cousin, Nani, Jun Pueng, her driver of family three decades. It's him I turn to to touch him. When we were more energetic and participated in Christ run bazaars, Pueng, a quick learner, set up our booth. He is also with us in every political rally, ready with portable chairs, umbrellas, and a cooler packed with drinks and sandwiches. In fact, he has become so public-sized he sometimes can't help removing himself in our conversations while driving us. Pueng has a low-driving years left in him, but he has asked for two additional days off in a month.

My daughter had Becky, who facilitates with her twins before her children were born. She became yaya to the three children as each came without having entered into the help itself—maids, driver, cook. We thought her regular nanny, my daughter, is working overtime.

The children loved Becky and she loved them back, and the house was well-run. But the reserved having problems with sick and aging parents, who had low-ranking house more often, especially when her father died.

After 20 years she became less reticent of new hires, driving off some of them and eventually leaving her to take up the slack. Also increasingly irritable; she one day last control and just had to be let go. Impulsiveness here, here, found, but no one compares with Becky in her early years.

Like all relationships, if they are not ended at the right time, they are bound to end badly. That's why, while I am grateful for Lani, I have very limited use of being able to keep her forever.

Only Lola Hadley came close—with him, Aguste one of her younger sons, as tenth.

When she outlived her useful term, Lola made her a little home in the basement where she lived the rest of her life.

As kids are made free of her dominion in the tic hassle and prepared ourselves to get named every time we passed through the basement welcome. Now, three-plus years, I'm still cooking and, if a bit over penalized, wearing an apron, not a nurse at all. She mock says smiling her funny mock. less smile, happy to indulge me at our silly game. It wasn't hard to understand why kids didn't have the heart to let her go.

Surely however there else nostalgia end, there's always much to be grateful for.

Manage diabetes with 9 powerful herbs

MOST PEOPLE are not forthcoming about their health problem by medications like diabetes, depression, or sexual dysfunction. But today, more individuals are waking up to the fact that good health and longer life demand positive, consistent actions especially in terms of diabetes. 285 million people around the world now have diabetes, a figure expected to climb to 440 million within 20 years. This condition, which can lead to high blood pressure, blindness, the amputation of nerves and muscle, heart, liver and kidney disease is more common than ever. And now the question is, how does one manage it well?

Studies show that a large proportion of cases of diabetes and its complications can be prevented with proper nutrition, exercise and conventional medical treatments. Conventional medical treatments, however, tend to focus on treating or controlling symptoms and often these methods do not nearly strengthen the person's own defenses, the individual remains prone to recurrence of their problem. And there is also much less much on the short-term effects? What about the need to increase the patient's own inherent defenses? This is where the role of homeopathic medicine comes in. Ayurveda's influence on the development of modern medicine is well documented. In fact, the principles of many natural healing systems were similar to the West, such as Homeopathy and Polarity Therapy, have their roots in Ayurveda. Today Ayurveda has gained international recognition, especially in the Western world as a form of alternative medicine.

Diabetic sufferers around the world are reaping the benefits of Ayurvedic medicine through its herbal supplement especially made for diabetic care. Published clinical studies have shown that the nine herbs of Cognet dbr lowers elevated blood sugar levels, reduces triglycerides, regulates hormone, the immune system, helps heal diabetes-induced sexual dysfunctions and promotes the general well being of diabetics.

The nine herbs found in Cognet dbr have been tried and tested since it first came into the market over eight years ago and since that time has come a staple for diabetics around the country. This can be surely great hope for millions of Filipino diabetics who are still looking for a way to better manage their condition.

Cognet dbr is available in all major drugstores nationwide.

For more information please visit www.devwellness.com

Are we giving our children too much?

Conchita C. Rucio

MY CHAIR ROCKS

TUE FRIENDWORD that entered in the first that were stunning. But the smoke has not completely cleared. The Department of Health has issued statements about painters of debris from fireworks still in the air. It is hard to breathe.

A stomach virus is making the rounds, an aftermath of the holidays. Viruses come after when our resistance drops, making us relieve able/more.

But those whose energy level is still up, there's a routine move to avoid wellness. Gyms are booked solid. There's talk about "super" diets. Cohen's amazing results and the sub-lingual drops available only in America, only to allow you a scant 1000 calories a day.

And when everything else fails, there are underage music available that promises to make unsightly tills disappear. They will me, where do they go? No matter, I hear that boutiques and specialty stores are running out of them.

My doctor recommends exercise. I believe in gentle walking. The word "brisk" takes my breath away. I know that just thinking about it doesn't help. But it's true.

Bite/Jaime Cheer anyone you just you? We had several "gift wrapping" parties. I had privileged viewing seats from the front, but close enough to watch the action.

Sparkle

There is nothing more beautiful than the sparkle in a child's eyes as he opens a present. Expectation, anticipation and surprise!

Toys hark stranger-than-ever. I was not introduced to Optimus Prime, leader of the Autobots. For the heretofore uninformed, OP is a Transformer robot. He is this year's big chosen. Static what I hear. I was totally mesmerized as I watched, less and spun its gastropar limbs, after I had totally zoomed him up, his life-sensor came in the source and gave me a look of exasperation. I heard a couple of clicks and a few seconds later OP was back in business.

Right next to the tree was a copy of the latest cell phones. I thought an Android was a man from outer space. There were Black Berrys and Apples of the incredible kind. Our family pooled our talents that this old fashioned gave me one down. The latest ones are a couple of nanoseconds faster. So sooner does life click!

The filled as I began to be in the middle of all the excitement, my mind was full of questions.

Are we giving our children too much?

Are we shelling them from decision-making? Are we perhaps leaving them no room for deeper desires?

I worry about huge amounts of money spent to buy the latest hi-tech gadgets. Aren't we overdosing it a bit?

What do children really need from us? How are some obvious answers. Love. Discipline. Warmth. Time. Respect. Can't find them in the store.

Then we taught them the difference between cost and value?

Do they know that what they want is not necessarily what they need?

How can we raise them with an appreciation for work when we leave them nothing to work for?

In today's world of instant gratification, is there anything that we're still in them a passion for excellence?

How do we plant in their hearts a hunger for deficiency?

Do we remind them that they are not the only inhabitants on this planet?

Do they know what it is like to "do without"?

These questions keep tugging at my heart and I struggle for answers.

Video games

I wonder, too, about the growing number of young people who live life glued in their video games. (We have provided them as well.) With their thumbs they scour their flip screen the screen, vicariously enjoying their powers conferred by the right of blood and totally detached from reality. What do they know about events that affect our country and even the world?

Do we dare pull the plug?

The other day I found a refreshing blog written by a 20-years-old girl, sister from East Carolina University, Christine Sumbing Cordero is the new goodkeeper for the EGU Fleet as, on a scholarship for Broadcast Journalism.

Here are excerpts from her most recent entry:

"We spend far too much of our time standing in the background. Whether it be waiting, hoping, or wondering, we are constantly consumed with schedules, resistance or taking things step by step by step.

"I can't say it's all bad, because staying within the lines has gotten me into college, where I play the game I love and have found a passion for broadcasting. It's worth how opened doors for me in my future.

"The problem is that I've managed to do just about all of that while sitting over so patiently as a wallflower. I have yet to do any thing that has made me feel so incredibly alive than a pendrel are to water, or have made me feel so much as, or anything that has made me question in all honesty if I was alive.

"So this is my mission. I'm going on a journey to that glorious year of 2013 to declare myself. I will try 100 things that I have never, ever tried before.

"Carve a 'bucket list' type concept is in my head that will serve as ideas (skydiving, eating in a rave), dental elections, finding a lucrative person... to name a few), but most will be spontaneous. My goal is to try 1 to 3 things a week in that 365 days, constantly finding each outcome open minded about everything I am. I'm not exactly sure what I'll get out of this, but the thought of not knowing is what drives me to complete it."

To be honest, I don't think of a bucket list though I want to do. And so, I don't wish to be 20 again. But age be damned, I am under a step forward and declare myself available. It is not too late to grab that year by the horns, or whatever it is the dragon wears.

I may no longer be in the second row, eager for day-dating, but certainly I can do something to make a difference.

All it takes is a little time, and a lot of heart. Thank God, I still have both.

When we fulfill their fondest wishes, are we perhaps leaving them no room for deeper desires? Right next to the tree was an array of the latest cell phones. There were BlackBerrys and Apples of the incredible kind

Resolutions require a struggle

Fremgyal Ch

"Climb a tree from the dizzy desire of the fruit which you find, nothing spring. They climbed over and darkened my soul that I could not distinguish the color light of classic here from the joy of lust. Both kinds of affection burned zealously within me and swept my lively youth over the crags of desire, and plunged me into a whirlpool of shameful deeds. Your wrath was raised also to me but I know it not. I had been deafened by the clanking chains of my mortality, the penalty of my pride of soul. I wandered further away from you and you let me go."

The call for universal holiness is an ancient as the Holy Bible. Two of the greatest sacraments, Confession and Holy Eucharist, are precisely, more to help Catholics succeed in their struggle to live Christ-like lives.

G.K. Chesterton, English philosopher, wit and writer, when asked why he converted from agnosticism to Catholicism, answered, "I went my way to be forgiven."

E-mail: [illegible]@gmail.com

Miracle of the Mass

By Gloria Gee Gutierrez-Goley, *Contributor*

Jan. 10, 2010
Sydney, Australia

The welcome warmth that wraps the seamless
who seeks a sanctum in its stained shoals
now forms a fervid front of gray-haired "friends"
preparing for the pastor's primal pace
to consecrate the Savior's sacrifice.
The ancient ambiance agitates anew
the deep devotion drowned in deadly depths
of inbound self-consolatory ills:
this is the site revived for reverence
from childhood's outdoor church-inspired.
The congregation's early circumspect
supreme overalls in row and rare respect
to ageless anthem blends and billows up
above the traditional-in migrants' midst,
proclaiming papal patronage and pride
in Peter's pastoral and rock-based post.
Here is a sea of servant-saturnines
that awakes all in anniversary mode
the brown, the black, the blonde—or balding brass—
each voice is vibrant with a vital verve
to urge an unblemished unity
of charismatic choice and certitude.
This Sunday's sequence segues into a surge
that purges out a problematic past,
renews a childhood's church-oriented choice
to turn around the transient's errant trip
back to the Savior's stable safety stop.
Here at Mackillop's canonizing Mass—
where migrant militancy meet and match—
the servant-soul surmounts a Second Spring
to where the wayward winds its weary way:
A haven in the hallowed harvest-home
Where Mary meets her communion-sheltered mate!

(Written after the poet's grandaughter, Sydney resident Gisella Goley, brought her grandmother for the first time to Our Mass at the awe-inspiring Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel on Jan. 10, 2010, the date that marks the 20th death anniversary of the author's mother—a remarkable coincidence!)

IN THIS ISSUE
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

A. Gabriel Esteban–the first Filipino (and lay) president of a major American university

ESTEBAN: "I wasn't the smartest... I can't control how much the Lord gave me in terms of natural intelligence. The one thing I can control is how many hours I put into something."

Seton Hall 'being a Catholic university where basketball is probably the most popular sport alongside baseball is a dream come true for a Filipino–basketball and church'

By Charlie V. Moral

AMADO GABRIEL Esteban made news when he was named president of Seton Hall University in early 2011. He was the first Filipino to become president of a major American university and Seton Hall's first lay president in decades, and only third in the Catholic institution's 155-year history.

The news reached home not quite like Dimitri making it on "Oprah" or Manny Pacquiao after winning yet another boxing crown, but enough to generate a few e-mails from kababayans. Some were asking for jobs, others for tuition-fee discounts, Esteban recalled in amusement.

"So you can imagine if I had won the lottery," said Esteban, 53, a soft-spoken man with the warm and easy manners of one's favorite uncle. He and his wife, Josephine, were guests of honor at the Mabuti lunch this week hosted by Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Cuisia Jr., and attended by top academics and Philippine university presidents. (Cuisia attended Esteban's inauguration.)

"I tried to be respectful and replied I to do e-mails[,]" Esteban said.

Meritocratic

If those kababayans knew him at all, they wouldn't have even asked. The meritocratic Esteban is against undue advantage. Hard work is his battle cry.

"I found out a long time ago that to be a leader and a manager, you learn to be fair to people," he said. "Once people find that they can game the system, then they'll game the system. That's the major problem I see going on in corporations and even in some countries; people try to gain undue advantage. While it shouldn't be entirely black and white with your regulations, if you're going into a gray area, there should be a strong justification. That's one rule you learn living in public higher education in the US. Don't do anything unless you're perfectly comfortable that it's not going to be in the next day's paper. I tend to be very transparent."

His insistence on hiring people based on merit and absolute objections to getting ahead using one's personal connections is unpopular in Filipino culture, where it's not unusual for elected officials to appoint relatives to key positions.

"It's hard to hire people you can't trust. But trust works both ways," Esteban said. "You have to be able to trust that they'll watch your back. But watching your back means they're going to be on the up and up when it comes to their decision making. I can see that happening in some corporations. Even in the US, they hire [family]. If they have the skills. But if they don't have the skills, then you're condoning the tyranny."

Career path

Born and raised in Manila, Esteban studied math and earned his MBA at the University of the Philippines, effectively eschewing what everyone thought would be his career path: to become a medical doctor like his father, who taught at De La Salle and UP College of Medicine (his siblings both became doctors).

It was at UP where he met Josephine Bing, a business economics major who, like him, was Catholic-school-bred (he, at Pius Catholic School, where his mother taught history; she, at Siena College, where she sang in the glee club). Self-described geeks, they met in the math club.

Esteban went on to win a scholarship that brought him to Hawaii's Chaminade University for his second master's degree, in Japanese business studies, before coming home briefly to work as an investment analyst at San Miguel Corp. The Estebans moved to the US in 1986, where Josephine also offered an opportunity to earn an MBA at the University of California, Riverside. He also won a fellowship to get a PhD in business administration at University of California, Irvine.

With their young daughter Isabella in tow, the family moved to Texas where Es-

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Opening ourselves to life's epiphanies

As the 'Les Miserables' song goes, 'To love another person is to see the face of God'

By Fr. Titus Cabaay
Contributor

ELIA CHIMTU in his article "The Twelve Days of Christmas," gives a comprehensive layman's discussion of the feast of the Epiphany which are otherwise today.

He notes the point that in Christmas, we celebrate the humanity of Christ, God becoming man in this child, and in the Epiphany we celebrate the divinity of Christ and thus complete the celebration of the universe of Christmas. Interestingly, the Christmas Season ends with the feast of the Baptism of Christ.

She further states that while Christmas has become a time for family and friends, Epiphany is the "world feast of the Catholic Church" as Christ, the God-with-us, is manifested to the Gentiles, represented by the three magis from the East or the Three Kings.

The term epiphany has an interesting history from the Greek meaning "to manifest," which developed into "a divine manifestation." The Christian usage is the manifestation of the divinity of Christ to the Gentiles. Later on, James Joyce secularized and further popularized the term as an experience of a dramatic moment of enlightenment, exhilaration or insight that is surrounded in a natural atmosphere.

These epiphanies can range from the simplest snapshot story of daily life that gives us some insight, to an almost mystical vision resulting in a deep transformation. As Joyce would put it, an enemy how simple or how profound the epiphany, allows human morality to unfold.

Rhyme and reason

Harmoniously beautiful—perhaps this is the genre of an epiphany. It is a moment when things fall into place in one's life and one realizes the rhyme and reason of one's life or even just the beauty of the moment when we realize there is harmony.

I had shared in a previous article our 2007 Holy Week retreat experience when, on the second day of my eight-day retreat, I went back to a memory when I was 9 or 10 years old and from that moment I entered the story of my life. On the night of the Holy Thursday, 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., at the end of it all, the epiphany was realizing that through it all God is present. His presence is unwelcomed. His presence is loving.

This is the epiphany. My life, at that moment, was transcendently beautiful, revealing God is lovingly, passionately present. For the first time in my life, I was able to say to myself that I had a happy childhood and had lived a happy life, because God is lovingly, providentially present.

This is the epiphany I always considered as the experience that made me "go back" and pursue again my "dreams" to teach, to help form young men and women. Two years after, I resigned from the diocese and asked to be dismissed from the Jesuits to do what I had discerned, and was enflamed by my spiritual direction as God's mission for me.

Family devotion

Another story I shared in a homily last year was the experience of ABS-CBN newscaster Ginger Conejero in the Quinpo procession back in 2010. Ginger's family have been devotees from the time of her grandparents. She was invited for this family devotion while she was recovering from her second go-to procedure in the procession until 2010.

That year her father was home from the US where the had finally regained some color when Ginger was a child. Her father took the opportunity to join the procession, which he had not joined for a decade since his visits have been cancelled with the procession. Ginger told her father that she also wanted to join the procession and experience it for the first time.

Come procession day, there she was with her cousins standing with the crowd, waiting for the carroza to pass by. They were standing on the bridge when they saw the image of the Black Nazarene, found over her piece of cloth, a small brown cord, which seem to be striped on the image, and then pump back into the crowd on the carroza to allow others to go up. Her father told her that was all to happen procession.

The moment came, the dyed is uncovered. As the moment she was handing over her piece of cloth, the man overcame with emotions she could not explain. It was an experience of the presence of grace. In the midst of the crowds and the noise, she could hear her father calling to her, "Ginger, jump! Jump! I will be here to catch you! Jump! I will catch you."

At that moment, she broke down, and cried. She had an epiphany like she had never seen a harmonious love of reaching out to her father's love. Her experience of God's presence love, his experience a deep joy and peace.

Dodie Goethe in "By the River Piedra I Sit Down and Wept" writes:

"We will only understand the miracle of life fully when we allow the unexpected to happen. Every day, God gives us the one—and the only moment in which we have the ability to change everything. But unless we recognize Every day, we pretend we do not perceive that moment that is the only truth... For if people really pay attention to their everyday lives, they will discover the magic moment. It may occur in the instant when we are doing something mundane...

It may be hidden in the quiet daily habits the hands bear, or in the thousand and one things that all seem the same. But that moment exists—a moment when all the power of the stars becomes part of us and enables us to perform miracles."

Magic moments

There are magic moments in our life. Those are the epiphanies of our life. At that moment, things fit like pieces of a puzzle and we are filled with awe again. The experience a sense of wholeness—the harmony that James Joyce talks about. We are able to see some meaning in, or the meaning of our life, and our life no longer a beauty found in our lived with purpose.

We become whole and integrated and this all here as we are with integrity. Our action becomes an expression of the deepest meaning of our life, the values we believe in and the good we want to do. This is the holiness.

In the case of the songs from the musical "Les Miserables," Jean Valjean sings the line "To love another person is to see the face of God." This is our epiphany. This is discovering God in our ability to love others. God and other people. It is discovering God in our own life, the luminously beautiful as to have a life of loving service.

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9×9 box with nine smaller boxes. The object is to enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the whole squares so that each row, column and box contains the numbers 1 to 9. The following levels are offered: easy, medium, hard and expert. Solutions are published daily. Only one solution to each puzzle.

Concordia Sudoku By Frank Longo

		3	7		6		5	
	7			1			4	9
				4	9			
		8	2		3			
		2	9					
	6			9				
1		3		6	5	8	3	

Answers to previous puzzle

5	3	2	7	8	9	1	4	6
4	7	6	1	8	2	5	9	3
9	8	1	3	9	4	2	6	7
3	2	7	6	4	5	8	1	9
6	5	4	8	1	9	3	7	2
8	1	9	2	7	3	4	5	6
2	4	3	5	9	1	6	8	1
1	9	5	8	2	6	7	3	4
7	6	8	4	3	7	9	2	5

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — BEGIN

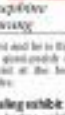
answer on page E5

San Ildefonso, Bulacan fiesta on Jan. 23; Fatima pilgrim image pays Filipinos a visit

DR. TERESITA Villaverde, this year's president of the committee preparing the fiesta in San Ildefonso town, told me that reasons why had had difficulty concerning a child had been helped by the saint.

Novena Masses begin on Jan. 14 and end Jan. 22. Feasts Mass is on Jan. 23 at 10 a.m.

PURELY PERSONAL



Josephine Lanuang

In the case of Fr. Johann Sebastian who is the one and only son, his mother was able only to remember when she prayed to San Ildefonso. Fr. Johann chose to be a priest and he is the parish priest of the quasi-parish of the Holy Eucharist at the foot of the Sierra Madre.

Healing exhibit

A healing exhibit featuring the holy relics including manuscripts of Blessed John Vital R. Festo, the collections of Dr. and Ms Villaverde, Jorge Alfon Tongco, Fr. Jay Lim, Fr. Dennis Santos, Gilbert Cruz and Filipino visionary Rev. Custodio Cuevas, will be held on Jan. 14, 2 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Multi-Purpose Center beside the San Ildefonso church.

Another Custodio will hold a healing session after the 5 p.m. Mass on Jan. 19. The public is invited to the Diocesan Shrine and healing ordeal (until Jan. 21).

In the collection of Dr. Villaverde are the office was from Gethsemane, relics of St. Anthony de Padua, Blessed Juchita, Blessed Francisco, St. Padre Pio, and a relic of San Ildefonso. Rodriguez's vestments by the brothers Willie and Edwin Layug are from of the Last Supper, belonging at the Pillar, St. Thomas of the Child Jesus, St. Luke, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Francis of Assisi, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and San Ildefonso.

Novena Masses

Salesian Bishop Reynaldo Tria Tirona will begin the nine-day Novena of fiestas at San Ildefonso on Jan. 14 at 5 p.m. with Los Ilocanos de Bulacan.

Dr. Cit. Villaverde, president of the fiesta committee, parochial vicar Fr. Ronald Mangoo, San Ildefonso Church's parish priest Fr. Crescio Dennis Santos and Church of the Holy Eucharist parish priest Fr. Johann Sebastian by the image of San Ildefonso, patron saint of San Ildefonso, Bulacan

Today, she is in Mater Ljesmil's Monastery in Mt. Ipucus, Turks until 2 p.m. There, she will be at the Cathedral in Lingayen Dagupan at 4:30 p.m. where she will stay until Jan. 9. Text Fr. Melvin Castro at 0917.514.0979 for schedule.

Many testimonies tell us that Our Lady of Fatima visits are an occasion of tremendous outpouring of grace for our people. Countless miracles happen during her visits like conversion and renewal. This statue of Our Lady of Fatima is called the Immaculate Heart Pilgrim Image because she has visited 100 countries.

Sorrowful Mysteries for Grenada

Grenada in the Americas is also known as the "Island of Spice." It is one of the world's largest exporters of nutmeg and mace. The islands are of volcanic origin with mountainous rich soil. Tourism is its main economic force.

Let us pray the Sorrowful Mysteries for Grenada tomorrow that the tourism industry be mindful of the need to preserve and conserve so that the family may be respected for all for the years that are it matters to society, that Grenada be spared from the destructions of powerful hurricanes. Let us also pray for the protection of the island from all threats, and for the young to learn the value of work.

A. Gabriel Esteban—the first Filipino (and lay) president of a major American university

From page E1

what taught marketing at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, then later to Arkansas, where he became professor and associate vice president of academic affairs at Arkansas Tech.

The Estebans settled in Arkansas the longest, living there for 12 years. Esteban became dean of the University of Central Arkansas' College of Business and, later, the provost or chief academic officer.

Exception

Given his background in public higher education, Esteban was initially uninterested when he was offered the position of provost at Seton Hall, New Jersey's oldest Roman Catholic university with 10,000 students. He was interviewing for presidencies of public universities.

Esteban received to Seton Hall provost for nearly three years before being named interim president in August 2010. After a long search, the university board made an exception of its 20-year rule that only priests can become president and named Esteban its 20th president on January 2011.

Esteban said moving to the US required a lot of adjustments, especially living in small towns in the south where there's only a small percentage of Catholics, and very few Filipinos. But he said his wife prospectively picked smaller places to raise their daughters, where "there's a strong sense of community and strong family values," hence their initial reluctance to move to the Northeast.

(Their daughter, now 21, grew up studious and perceptive, said the couple. She will graduate this spring from Seton Hall with a degree in psychometrics. She plans to go to medical school.)

Early on, the couple thought that if they'd end up in the New York area, they might as well move back to Manila because of the congestion. (They planned to come home in 1998, with Esteban uncovering the teaching position here, but "the 1998 Asian financial crisis took care of that.") "And now we're living here. It's funny how things turn out," he said, shaking his head at the irony.

Good fit

But Seton Hall was indeed a good fit for Esteban to move to—on more than one. As a young man, he was a reluctant jock who turned down an opportunity to play basketball in the UP varsity team "because I wanted to be known that I go in because I had brains," he said with a chuckle. Seton Hall "being a Catholic university where basketball is probably the most popular sport alongside football is a dream come true for a Filipino—basketball and church."

Esteban, however, hasn't shot hoops in a long time, picking up golf a few years ago, which now comes in handy as his new post requires him to socialize with alumni and potential donors for his university. A large part of the job is raising funds, he said. Josephine has had to take time off from her work at a media-planning agency in Manhattan to be by his side.

"I'll didn't do that. I'll never set him," she said. "I realized his career comes first because I'm SO HAS been very supportive throughout my career," Esteban says of his wife, Josephine King, a fellow math geek from UP, who's taking time off from her own work to help him at his new job. "I realized his career comes first before mine," she says. RAMON ESTEBAN

Esteban said he misses his family and friends in the Philippines, but since I realized then, I thought, so can't be going to commute, see. I can't connect how much the Lord gave me in terms of natural intelligence. The one thing I can control is how many hours I put into something. You put gave as much as you can. You must always be successful. You'll fail quite a few times, but it's not how many times you fall down, but how many times you pick yourself back up. Some of the most successful business people we have, you ask them and they probably failed in more than one venture. They start all over again."

Hardwork

When asked what Filipino attitudes he thinks needs to be instilled in others to get the country out of its rut, he said, "There's no substitute for hard work. We shouldn't rely on shortcuts. Fifty years ago, we were No. 2 in Asia—we had the natural resources, the manpower! Then there's lack of discipline, which you see on the roads, the traffic. Filipinos are successful wherever they go. They take on two to three jobs, and make a name for themselves. It's not easy but there is light at the end of the tunnel."

Speaking to students at the start of each school year, Esteban reminds them to find their passion and "work as it is you become the best at it. The (financial) rewards may not dollars but you'll have a happy life as long as you're able to sustain yourself in a manner that you're happy with. There's more to life than money. I didn't get into teaching for the money. I never thought I'd end up teaching."

THE ESTEBANS with (from left) Dr. Lydia Echauz, Far Eastern University president; Commissioner Nona Nicolas of the Commission on Higher Education; Dr. Bernardo Villegas, vice president of University of Asia and the Pacific; Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Cuisia Jr.; Maria Victoria Cuisia; Dr. Alfredo Pascual, president of Jollibee Foods Corp.; Dr. Edilberto de Jesus, president of Asian Institute of Management; and Dr. Alvin Caliba, executive vice president for external relations of De La Salle

'Love, Loss and What I Wore' rerun in RCBC theater

ITI PRODUCTIONS presents "Love, Loss and What I Wore," a play written by Nora and Delia Ephron and based on the 1988 book by Ilene Beckerman runs Jan. 29-Feb. 9 p.m., with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:30 pm in RCBC Theater (4/F RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati). Tel. 2180788 or 09189880 e-mail marketing@itiphil.com. Featuring Rhoda Lou Nakpil-Puno, Eliza Escalante, Jay Valencia-Glorioso, Cathy Azarcon-De Leo, Lizz Infante-Robertson.

The show vividly recounts a selection of comic and heartwarming stories from different women who remember key moments in their lives through the clothes they wore, including their first kiss, wedding dress, boyfriends and tears to get over an ex. Directed by Michael Williams and Dr.

'Eyeball: New Visions' plays in CCP

"Eyeball: New Visions in Philippine Theater" features four of the best plays from the Virgin Labfest, the yearly festival of new works by emerging and established Filipino, the constant drama company of the cultural center of the Philippines.

It will open on Jan. 10 and is set to run weekends until Feb. 10 in CCP Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (Little Theater).

"Searching" is the theme of this selection, and the plays each in one's search for love, lost family bonds, entertainment and missing loved ones.

"Eyeball" will be shown in two sets of two bills. Set 2 includes Carlo Placido Sanchez Mariscal "Bukit Whee Wang Mag-bakagan na Pilipinas Dito yan?" directed by Fide Benedicto, which tells the story

The creative team includes Eric Cruz for the set design, Ruben Cabay for lighting design and TJ Manzo for sound.

Regular ticket price is P600, with premium and senior citizen discounts. Call 8020661 0920-9520381 or 0929-8838838. CCP Box Office at 8832570, and Ticketworld at 8916999.

'Defending the Caveman'

"Defending the Caveman," the longest-running one-man comedy in Broadway by American stand-up comedian Rob Becker, will be staged by CTI Productions Jan. 9-11, 13-15, Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m., with 2:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday matinees, at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati. Joel Trinidad plays lead. The show is directed by Michael Williams and Cathy Azarcon-De. It tackles the battle of the sexes, addressing age-old questions: Why do men leave their dirty underwear on the floor? Why do women have three-hour meeting rooms? Why do sexes speak each other with accents? Why do women love to cuddle? Why don't men like to talk? And why can't women ever seem to stop? Tickets are P2,500-P1,200. Call 8189999, 0917-5378333, 2182788, visit www.ticketworld.com.ph, e-mail cherbeverly@aol.com. Ticketnet is on Twitter.

ICAM reunion

Attention to Alitiks: Roll out your padded tops and other ballbaggings from storage and dig up the hair spray from the dusty bin. Your fashion eighteens might just win you a prize at the end. A grand alumni homecoming of the Immaculate Conception Academy (Alitiks) is set for Saturday, Jan. 19.

Aside from dancing to the '80s and '90s galore, Alitiks will be given another shot at redeeming themselves in the eyes of the world. Most importantly, this is a chance to see long-missed friends, classmates and teachers at our alma mater. Be there when Sharmaine Registration starts at 9 a.m. at the ICAM Auditorium, Corinthian at 227 21. Cor Roxas St., Cagayan, Tomb, Manila. This year's celebrants are Nine Jubilarians (batch '87 and Bobbie Jans batch '77. Call Mario Pe, text Bernice 0920-9622908, visit ICAMCM@yahoogroups.com.

Pancake House branches

Pancake House has opened two outlets in the Pinas Laguna and Bacolod. The first outlet in Bacolod is the newest addition to the Pancake House family. Located during the blessing are franchisee owner Dean Mejia, franchisee owner Dr. Melissa Angel Montelibano Rivera and franchise owner Oscar Angel. The new branches Laguna is at Schools E... Ala Pinas. At the opening area owners...

PANCAKE Home open in Bacolod and Laguna

Jam Inocencio Alejandro Inc. Fr. Rolo Alcuaz of St. John Bosco Parish and the staff. Pancake House Bacolodians are pancakes, coffee, rice chicken, spaghetti and tacos. It has made its branches in Metro Manila, Laguna, Tanay, Tagaytay, Batangas, Baguio, Cebu, Cebu, Davao, Laguna de Bay, Iloilo.

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Why Hollywood men love Neil Barrett

The Brit designer, whose fans include Brad Pitt, Ryan Gosling, Jake Gyllenhaal and Justin Timberlake, makes men look 'masculine and credible'

IN 1999, after working with Gucci and Prada for 10 years, where he was the force behind the label's launch of its menswear line, Neil Barrett had his namesake brand established.

HIGHLIGHTS from Neil Barrett's Spring 2012 menswear collection. The brand is best known for a modern and edgy ambassador yet cool aesthetic, and excellent technique and craftsmanship. Neil Barrett's trademark pieces are leather jackets and sharp suits.

RYAN Gosling

JUSTIN Timberlake

ORLANDO Bloom

KEVIN Phillippe

"I TRY to make men look masculine and credible, while most designers throw out either instead...by boys or exaggerated super-macho men. It's our attempt or the other on the runway and not a lot to do with how real guys want to dress," says Neil Barrett.

Barrett has been designing fashion apparel for over 20 years. Both his grandfather and great grandfather were master tailor and Barrett's passion for tailoring began at an early age.

Having graduated from the Central Saint Martins School of Art and Design in London, the designer began his career in the most luxurious and extensive growing up for 10 years with Gucci and Prada, companies where he acquired a deep knowledge of the luxury fashion market and its dynamics, especially with regards to menswear.

In 1999, he decided to go out on his own, and launched his own eponymous menswear brand, obtaining immediate press attention and praise from buyers. After just one year, he opened his first flagship store in Tokyo.

His first men's fashion show for the Milan Fashion Week was in 2002. In 2003, he was appointed creative director of Puma Sport Collection, an agreement that would see him, among other achievements, be the first fashion designer to create an "on pitch" kit for a team.

Neil Barrett has since gone on to design the Italian National team's kit that they wore for the 2006 World Cup. Barrett-renowned Italy won the title in Berlin with 20-year lanes wearing his kit.

Since 2009, international trendsetters began turning to Neil Barrett for their wardrobe needs. Darren Aronofsky, Colin Firth, John Gilliland, Lenny Kravitz, Ryan McGinley, Chris Martin, Mark Ruffalo Russell Simmons reportedly power suits. Brad Pitt chose to wear Neil Barrett for his change to an age with "Mr. And Mrs. Smith," becoming the first celebrity to wear one of the "hand-aged" leather jackets that have since become signature pieces in the Neil Barrett collections.

After the launch of womenswear collections, Neil Barrett has attracted celebrities like Madonna, Kirsten Dunst, Angelina Jolie, Kate Hudson and Robin Wright.

He has also provided over the years wardrobes for big movie productions, including "Spider-Man 2 and 3," "I, Robot" and "Ghost Rider."

Neil Barrett is available only at Adora, 2/F Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center, Makati City, tel. 2174883.

The Chloé girl, according to Clare Waight Keller

IN HER first season for Chloé, creative director Clare Waight Keller considered the mood of the Chloé girl and discovered a multitude of feminine personalities that define the brand.

"I looked at feminist girls, girls on the street and loved Bailey's photos of Moira Hebein and Sophie Sharon on a beach," says Keller. "There's a sense of feminine complexity, sensitivity and sweetness in this woman."

Powdery pastels, makeup shades with nudes and pinks and soft bright accents define Chloé's spring palette. The attitude is confident, but charming and relaxed.

Chloé has created new bag styles this season in neat symmetries, which play on the softness of leather. A mini clutch with extra wide strap, a oversized clutch, a new shoulder chain bag and a big tote are proposed in a large selection of beautiful leathers. Even textural soft lock leathers in very sophisticated tones, enhanced by a rosy Chloé-inked color palette with a twist in bright colour accents.

The overall attitude for Chloé this spring is modern and feminine with spontaneous charm and certain intelligence for a look, which it both natural and eclectic.

Keller has had a phenomenal style trajectory. The Bethlehem designer, who completed her M.A. in Fashion Knitwear at London's Royal College of Art after obtaining a B.A. in Fashion and Knitwear Source College of Art, began her career just weeks out of school, in New York as womenswear for Calvin Klein. She followed this up four years later with a post at Ralph Lauren, where she worked directly under Lauren for the launch of the brand's top-tier Purple Label collection.

When Tom Ford was looking for a key member of his design team to work with Francisco Costa and Christopher Bailey at Gucci's design studio in London in 2000, he hired Keller on the spot. She remained there until Ford's departure in 2004 and was appointed creative director of Scotland's Pringle in 2009, where she injected a modern context into the cashmere heritage label, bringing it into the international fashion spotlight.

Chloé is available only at Adora, 2/F and 3/F Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center, Makati City, tel. 2174882.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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What could be more fun than fireworks on the beach?

Helping others could be enjoyable, too, at Habitat for Humanity's Youth Build

WELCOMING 2013 in Boracay: Bryan Peters, Rondie and Tessa Valdes

IT REALLY is more fun in the Philippines! This year, instead of traveling abroad to welcome the New Year, we unraveled at the fireworks along the pristine white beach of Boracay.

Like a friendly competition, the seven-hotel-to-visit soon put up expensive, but fireworks display, to the delight of entertainers who quickly had to sit on the beach to enjoy the sights. All the proceeds were for orphans, so the entire performance is even very safe.

One family celebrated the last hour of last year at the beautiful Discovery Shores. I was discovery shores, to be exact. Their GM, Ian Portese, is a pleasant, personable man who seemingly oversees every detail of that Manic Gras-themed party. We loved that the 70s family owners of the resort, were right there to party with us, as well.

At Discovery Shores, the service is always flabbergasting. There are always people around to offer freshly rolled and roasty marsa seeds as poolside, or cool, wet face towels at beach side. My hubby Jovanni personal fave is the guy who comes up and offers to clean his shades. It's that sort of personal attention that distinguishes Discovery Shores.

My favorite hair and makeup stylist, Vitmar Ortega at Kinghis on Eden, was with us on New Year's Eve. Almost an identical Vitmar was the talent at Shangri-La's Boracay Resort and Spa, as well as his own full-service salon and spa right behind Station 1. It's great to see his many entrepreneurial ventures on the island.

Among the cool resorts on the beach is the Astoni Boracay Resort on Bulabog Beach (www.astonboracay.com), where Dennis and I stayed during a visit to the island last last year. Astoni is right beside D'Mall, still the more modern for beachfront activities, and of course, shopping.

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Another great place to stay is the newly refurbished Discovery Boracay, which boasts a championship golf course. Dennis played a round of golf there with my sister Sandy Romualdez, her hubby Philip and 11-year-old Sam, who shot an incredible 88, beating all the elders.

Perfecting the family vacation

While the golfers exited in the sun, my kids and I lounged at the poolside of Shangri-La's Boracay Resort and Spa (www.shangri-la.com). Today the premier address on the island, Point Amber, Shangri-La's resort of contemporaries, occupied for 6-year-old Athena to try the miniature Zone, while tweener Tyrone and Annika checked out the pony pony, air bunkers and boogie at the Entertainment Zone.

Shangri-La Boracay has easily perfected the family vacation activities in the hill. Their friendly staff knows how to entertain kids of all ages, so parents can have a fun vacation and not have to worry about the kids. Their private beach means a different kind of Boracay—more private, uncrowded, relaxing.

At the Shang, we spotted family and Mark Higgins of Shin's Fashion and Arts School. Sandy and Mark are great supporters of the Red Charity Gala that Kate Vargas and I hold every year. They were enjoying a quiet sun and sea holiday, reliving the love given the Glo Spa team, which I was most interested in the resort's shop, of course.

The Shang also has its own private dock, from which guests can take a speedboat to go parasailing, scuba diving or jet skiing. It's an all-in-one resort, with everything you need so you never need to venture out.

It really is more fun in Boracay with the variety of resorts to choose from. It was great to see so many foreigners on the island, as well.

On the last day of the year, we decided to eat at Boracay Bar & Grill in Station 2. Proprietor Jeff McKenzie moved to Boracay personally, because her sister, and I sure swung her in yoga classes in Makati. Still, it was good to catch up over her delectable clam soup and fresh fish grilled over hot coals. Her cyst-filled sex also excellent.

Chilling back to Manila after the holidays is always a reality check. But in keeping with the spirit of the new tourism slogan, my new wish year is to find

DINNER: Valdes with the Tio family: Cynthia, Dani, Krissy, mom Toni Lorenz, Jaimie and Myk

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HEALING priest Fr Fernando Suarez at the airport hangar of Shang Boracay with Francis Fernandez, Juliana and Annika Valdez, Sandy and Philip Remoquillo with sons Lucas, Ben and Nico, and Dennis and Tess Valdez

HAPPY Sandy, Philip Remoquillo, Sea Princess, Sandy Remoquillo, Dennis Valdez, Discovery Shores GM Jon Parmele and Victor Ortega

What could be more fun than fireworks on the beach?

From page F1

more ways of having fun in the Philippines.

And the fun part is that having fun to our country is not hard at all. On Jan. 22, Katy Perry gave the concert season going with her "California Dreams" tour, presented by Smart, at the SM Mall of Asia Concert Grounds.

Tickets available at Ticketworld at www.ticketworld.com.ph or tel. 891-9999 or through at SM outlets, www.smtickets.com.

My guess is that Katy will certainly sing her hit, "Firework," as it seems right for the season. Sponsors include Smart, Philippine Airlines, LG, Asus, Little Asia Pen, Star World and SM Mall of Asia.

200 homes

As we seek ways to have fun in our country, let's not forget to make it an effort for everyone to have more. Yes, we can even have fun while helping others.

Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP) is launching their Youth Build 2012 on Jan. 14, 6 p.m., at the Greenbelt 5 Pavilion back. Building on the success of last year's Youth Build, the HFHP Youth Council is targeting the development of 200 youth leaders and getting 3,000 volunteers to build 200 homes in Negy Yatas, Navotas City, on May 12.

It's a challenging goal, but others we consider that HFHP builds homes for our Pinoy brothers. It's the sort of goal that we all want to help achieve. The Youth Council expects a large contingent of Pinoy participant Youth Build, joined by their peers from around the region. Youth Build is an Asia Pacific-wide endeavor, with similar work planned in China, India, Indonesia and Thailand.

Alex Edrajan, Habitat ambassador and HFHP Youth Council founder, is particularly excited about the 200 youth leaders they are developing, which ensures that Youth Build will leave a lasting legacy.

WHITE Beach Paradise Bar & Grill owner Joji Medina and Sea Princess

CUTE explorer Nico Remoquillo painting his T-shirt

DISCOVERY Shores guests Cris and Butch Albert

SMILING at Shang Boracay lobby: Sea Princess with daughters Annika and Arkana Valdez, Ben Nico, Bryan Prison and Nico Remoquillo

ENJOYING breakfast Boracay-style: Theresa and Marion Pamplona, Tess and Dennis Valdez, and Sandy and Philip Remoquillo and all-star kids

SHANG Boracay's director of communications Heidi Javier

SHANG guests Nina Hidalgo, Sandy and Mark Higgins of Shire's Fashion and Arts School

NEW CHECK-IN counter of SEAIR at Caticlan Airport in Boracay

Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Youth Build campaign ambassador, and Cha-cha Bladergad, campaign relations manager, are the heads of the Youth Build 2012 launch. Sawach has been a supporter for this campaign, as well. With their leadership, I'm sure Youth Build 2012 will be a way to have more fun in the Philippines for all.

Follow Tess on Twitter @tessvaldez or e-mail her at sugarnews@inquirer.com.ph.

ACTION-PACKED Entertainment Zone of Shang Boracay

FUN AND enjoyable Adventure Zone in Shang Boracay with giant slide and outdoor playground

SMILING at Shang Boracay lobby: Sea Princess with daughters Annika and Arkana Valdez, Ben Nico, Bryan Prison and Nico Remoquillo

KATY Perry "California Dreams" Tour Live in Manila on Jan. 22

LATHA-style pool area of Balinsasayao Resort in Negros

HEPHEW Francis Fernandez playing at the Entertainment Zone of Shang Boracay

WHITE Beach Paradise Bar & Grill in Boracay

SWEET couple Marissa and Bailey Tandoning at Shangri-La Boracay Resort and Spa

FESTIVE Mardi Gras dinner setup at Discovery Shores Boracay for New Year's celebration

ANNE Curtis and Liz Uy

CRISTALLE Pamaran

JOBOSS Zandua

SAMANTHA grinned out at the video clip of Derek's audition

ANGELICA played host to all the guests

A SUPERMAN Like for Derek

ANGELICA started singing "Happy Birthday" to usher in the cake

SUSAN Jones and Nicole Ramos

GMTC's Mr Barnes and Patrick Rimes

Angelica was singing 'Happy Birthday' as a huge Superman cake was carried in—but it was so big they couldn't get it into the restaurant

Who can say no to Derek Ramsay?

By Raymund Sales
Correspondent

IMAGINE MY delight when I got an exercise book from Derek Ramsay for my birthday @ Lance in Greenhill S. Intensive gathering of my close friends."

Despite the years I have worked with Derek, as a model, actor and top endorser, working with him was never dull. I still have fond memories of cracking up with what's happening with me and him.

Derek brings the sweet heaven-sent kind of people in the business or elsewhere, but so friends. I think that is why so many people are rumored with him, but what was supposed to be an intimate gathering turned out to be a solid and joyous occasion.

Before the party even began, Derek was worried that he only invited 30 of his closest friends, and only a few of them were confirmed that they were coming. Then again, how many Filipinos do you know who actually confirm or RSVP for a party or event? That's why our birthday boy was worried, but who could blame him? Even if he had sent out the effort to text or let his company.

Earlier that day, he asked Angelica to accompany him to buy something he could wear that night. Unsure this, because I had some private time with Angelica since she was excited that she was her casual for the night. I told her she was fine. Just to worry.

Apparently, she didn't even have enough time to go back home and change into her special dress that was meant for the occasion. But nobody seemed to mind, because she was bouncing with glee in all the close friends of Derek did show up.

Only I walked into the place, you could feel the crazy energy in the air. The crowd was a good mix of show biz people, sports commentators and clients. But here become close to Derek—even his old classmates were there.

Open-mouthed

I knew I was in the right place because even the casual formalities and passers-by were open-mouthed, surprised to see Derek and Angelica casually greeting people. Their guests (the crowd in the Parazzo), in case, it was all over the place.

When Derek saw me, he hugged me tight, like a long-lost brother, and was genuinely glad to see me. That, like a kid, he was excited. I told him to close the other entrance as I, you would be glad just to be in his company.

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DEREK was key to the cake candles are being lit

his video like a couple of was remind to all his guests. You should see the poster of newborns and Derek expressions of the guests as Derek showed the video. (Twas dying of laughter).

Others were Tim Yap or Romero, Jason Abalos, Sandy Andolong, Gil Cuan, second with Tatan Arena, Anne Curtis, Liz Uy and Claire Tan. I felt intimidated by the powerful cast of characters assembled in one table. But all that changed when Tim Yap immediately turned up to greet me.

Tim Yap, in the a finally called by almost all the people in the industry has been a causes from behind my career. I have to credit her for most of my major work that has cemented my cop-stature in the industry for it.

quite all that, she has never stopped being both a friend and guiding force even till. Can't you mean it? I love her to bits, and I am sure all the other people in the room felt that same way because they all gravitated to her.

As I scanned the room, familiar faces from the industry glittered all over the place. Angelica played host to the constant flow of guests that trickled in. And like in all parties, a game of musical chairs ensued. With the constant influx of new guests on between guests, people found themselves taking seats. Alliances people, depending on the conversation or the topic.

The guy he had kissed

That's when I heard the "unforgettable" Vice Ganda sound off. DJ Durano and Derek Peterbuilt, who directed Vice in both "Parokya" Ni Edgar" and "Praybeyt Benjamin". "Derek joined them and proudly announced that Vice Ganda was the guy he had kissed on screen. Imagine the teasing and jealous heckling from the crowd.

Suddenly, a voice boomed "Happy Birthday!". We all looked and Angelica was singing to a huge Superman cake was carried in. Funny though, it was so big that they couldn't get it into the restaurant. So, the cake stayed outside, while Angelica kept singing. Then she stopped midway and asked, "Eto, baby ano daw ang kanilakwin?" Then everyone joined in while trying to keep from laughing. Derek stepped out of the restaurant to finish off the song.

The party was in full throe in the evening, despite the fact it was the middle of the week and there was work the next day. Some even had 7 a.m. call times the next day. It just showed how much people loved Derek and his company.

In hindsight, I do seldom have bad things about this guy, and no amount of flame or foolish stunts to affect his genuine-ly down-to-earth persona. What you see is really what you get.

Marking 18 years of regal splendor

THE CEBU CHAPTER of La Chaine des Rotisseurs marked its 18th anniversary with a grand gala held at the Marco Polo Plaza Hotel. Wielding over Honorary Consul of France **Michel Lhuillier**, who hosts La Chaine in the Philippines, and his wife **Amparito Llamas Lhuillier**, head of the Cebu chapter.

Present at this occasion were **Josephine** and **Federico Remollo**, the latter being the head of La Chaine in Manila. "We are more than 100 tonight," said Amparito, who was in red silk and wore a magnificent necklace of diamonds.

Greeting the guests along with Michel and Amparito were the Marco Polo's general manager **Ronald Verzosa**, his wife **Joy**, its resident manager **Julie Negre**, marketing and communications director **Lara Constantino Asuncion** and **Stephen Fitzpatrick**, the food-beverage director.

A large elegant crowd gathered at the hall adjacent to the ballroom for predinner drinks and canapés as the evening's buffet-like greetings was **Angie L. Martinez**, perhaps the most feted lady on the evening.

"I couldn't miss this," said her sister **Amparito Lhuillier**, who had arrived in Cebu just a couple of hours earlier. Margie had joined the 8-mile-nation of Cebu Gov. **Gwendolyn Garcia** in Bohol, Cebu and Amparito.

In the entourage were members of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by its president, **Samuel Chiongson**.

La Chaine's top officers in Cebu were very much involved on this occasion: **Bernie Mendonesa** as speaking think grossmeister, **Fr. Nestor Alonso** with his vice-chair, **Dr. Divina Gim Yontoveros**, **Claude Al Evangelista** and **Dave Sharpe**.

Behind the scenes on this occasion was **Lito Seguiso**, executive chef at the Marco Polo, who prepared a fabulous menu.

Michel Lhuillier Chardonnay 2010 from France accompanied the entrée of fresh diver and sea foie fry shot, apple risotto, "shallots not stirred," served as the starter, prelude to a fabulous entrée.

This was roasted veal tenderloin, matched by an excellent wine—Château des Fesseres, Chateauneuf-du-Pape 2008. A classic dish came next and then the desserts, to the credit of chef Yvon Zimmer.

Musical play

As dinner progressed, a terribly animated musical play unfolded according to the plot of "The Clockwork Princess," directed by Alex Espinosa-Mona Sarmiento Echaverri played the title role, with **Gabriel Bonnin** as the tinkerer and **Yvonne Serdeña Antilla** and **Gemma Ricardo** as the spinsters.

The story was by **Andrea McParlan**, **Pamela Therese Eslabon** and **Vincent Estino** who did the choreography in the company were **Leonor Monteralla**, **Jay Librando**, **Camila Espina** (musical direction), **Jay Young** and **Paul Canada** (musical arrangement and direction), **Justin Abalos** (sound engineering), **Dionne Sonning** (makeup) and **Zenaonay Villaberrueva** (lighting).

Cebu's top hotels were well-represented on this occasion: **Manny Gonzalez** and **Efren Belmonte** from Plantation Bay, **Renee Winton** wearing a Scottish kilt and wife Charmine, from the Mactan, and

"We are more than 100 tonight,' said Amparito Lhuillier at the Chaine des Rotisseurs event, dressed in red silk and diamonds

Joachim Schultz and wife Claudine, from the Mactan. Shangri-La where the next Chaine event in Cebu will be held, a heated subject on gala tables March 14.

Among those present were Rep. **Eddie Gullas** with lovely wife **Norma Sichua Gullas**, Alliance Francaise de Cebu director **Louis Theyenin** with his wife Theyenin, **Iris Ayesan** and daughter Mia, who designs all those sexy silk cultures. The Wine Shop's **Isabel Palmos** and fashion plates **Rosabel Sala** and **Annabelle Lazo**.

Also present were **Raffaella Pelosi**, president of Unicefe Cagayan Exclusive; **Desiree Pardon**, representative of the Cebu International School; Honorary Consul of Sweden **Ana Saka** and wife Jasmin; **Honey Jacque Loop**, **Greg** and **Agnes Hoettel**, **Gunther** and **Sandra Pardy**, and **Jessica Sala**; the Marco Polo's consultant for Cebu tourism; **Mia Tuason**; and **Maria Cristina Fernandez** from Cebu's finding in mid-January.

Above, **Mila Espina** who sat beside Marcelo Rieger of the Swiss Bank of Switzerland Hong Kong; **Elvira Layus** and **Marissa Ferrazzi**; chef **Massimo Lamagna**, **Rose Kallenbeiter**, **Stella Avendaño**, **Mike** and **Susan Pomeroy**, **Dr. Ludget** and **Gay Ernst** with **Mike Phalan**, **Rodney Schick**, and **Maria Conrad** from the Bolton Island Resort in southwest Cebu.

It was midnight and the fun was just about to start. Dance music played, Michel took Amparito for a spin, and that got everyone hopping until 2 a.m.

CEBU
Jaime Pacheco

KIMBERLY Dumlao, Frances Sison, Norrie Uy

JEROME Cuison, Jerry Gopuco and Dionglene Cuison

TERESITA Manabat-ona, Trinitar Sun, Mayor Michael Rama and Chris Ballinger

For Cebu's smart leisure class—only this Smart TV

YESS Lumpert and Agnes Huertas

TECH blogger Jayvee Fernandez and Lani Gonzaga

Kaye G. Layos and Ofbil Garaffa

SET IN CEBU

SAMSUNG's Smart TV is no ordinary boob tube, and Cebu's leisure class-ers attest to that after seeing for themselves what the LED 8000R Smart TV could do, at the exclusive viewing party held at Cebu's Crimson nightspot, Maya Mexican Restaurant and Tequila Lounge.

Blogger Jayvee Fernandez of sbuggydolls.com, and one of our favorite ladies of style, Lani Gonzaga, walked the guests through Smart TV's features features. It promises to be the fastest, brightest and sharpest TV out there, combined into one elegant piece of technology.

Aside from its amazing picture clarity—guesting Maya's free-flowing beauty medium-left us giddy with joy but did not allow the Smart TV's lacklitre—and ultra-sleek design, its Smart Hub is your gateway to the world without having to move your rear.

The Smart Hub allows you access the Search All function, the App Store—yes, like your Smartphone; you can download any app in any category—and best of all, Social TV, which allows you to continue watching TV and talking about what you're watching in real time on social networks.

The CHERRY on top—one of two reasons that come with the Smart TV—makes for easy typing as you update your Facebook status, Tweet or chat with friends on Google Talk. As well, watching YouTube videos, browsing the web and skyping on the big screen of the Smart TV makes for an unbelievable experience. Everything just looks so much lickin, brighter and better, as Lani demonstrated, when she Skyped her daughter Aimee who is in Hong Kong doing her undergraduate studies.

Savvy guests who bought a Smart TV that evening saved home with a bundle of freebies, including five pairs of 3D glasses, a 3D Blu-ray player and a 32-in LED TV, among other amazing products.

Aimee wandering TV and munching go so well together, like a torch and a smile, humming made non-stop entertainment as guests had the best of Maya's Mexican favorites, including shrimp quesadillas, empanadas with chorizo, tacos arrieras and the mana-ey-mia Mexican burgers.

All in all, the Samsung Smart TV 8000R Viewing Party was an excellent opportunity to explore yet another brilliant Samsung work of technological art. It's hard to look at a TV as for that matter, a computer, in the same way again.

APO and Gigi Abaniel

SAMSUNG Smart TVs at Maya

SAMSUNG PR manager Odessa Velarde and Prisma Santos

MARI and Dixie Martinez

Paskong Pinoy in a secluded country house

EREHA Zobian

IRENE Bautista, Monin and Bert Bautista

DR. JOHN Dizon

EMMA Nieva, Lee Dillon, Roxanne Silverio

MARIANNE Trinidad

WINSTON Llamas, Dennis Ramirez, Glenn Llamas

IT HAS become tradition for close friends of marine goldfactor Dennis Ramirez to troop to his country home in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, a few days before Christmas to savor the true taste of a Paskong Pinoy. Situated in a secluded village where he has only one country neighbor (he used to have more!), the house friendly fiestas with thousands of LED lights to make it easier for the guests to find the place. Since the annual Christmas dinner was first held almost a decade ago, the number of guests has steadily increased. It has become an occasion not only to bond among buddies at Christmastime, but also to meet new friends. This year, the new faces included Japanese Embassy Senior Minister Shunsuke Shimizu and media officer Kenji Hirai; actor Jeffrey Campos; lady-journalist Dominé Torrevillas; Don Asis Bautista; and the popular Llamas brothers Glenn and Winston. They joined regulars like Marivic Vasquez; Bobi and Ann Perez; Ira Cuenca and Bob Miller; Vince and Rhoda Alderete; Grace Thani Manila EM Pamela Kanna; and Bin Sel's Peacock Garden Resort owners Lani Arbasol.

Fun was the hallmark of the party. There was an exchange gifts where items range from Ebelly-e to pricey, but the real score of Dennis's yearly Paskong Pinoy are Rick Ching's magnificent fondant cake, and The Plaza's Mike Reyes' unbeatable Vodka Iimons but the lehrights at pain bandung, pan de sal at barong pan; and the unfailing hospitality of Dennis's parents Soledad and Ramon Ramirez.

DAIJU Head's Daisuke Fukuoji (center) with Japanese Embassy media officer Kenji Hirai and Senior Minister Shunsuke Shimizu

JANN School, Virginia Lane

BETH Vinoris, Cory Quirino

FE DIXON and son Marcos, at right, Joanne and Gardner Matsutaka

PREMPRUCH and Sam Chophakdee

ANN Puno, Marivic Vasquez, Rene Puno

HENRY and Joan Zobian

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Ennrie G. Velarde

SMART POSTPAID

FEARLESS designer's love this statuesque woman, who was the late Princess Diana's contemporary as an exclusive boarding school. She is a headturner everywhere.

Tilda Swinton thought she'd never finish her latest film

LOS ANGELES—Time magazine recently showered her with praise.

Tilda Swinton deserves the gushing press. The British actress rewards us with yet another towering performance in "We Need to Talk About Kevin," a dark drama where she plays Eva Khatchadourian, the mother of a child who goes on a murderous rampage in his high school.

Lynne Ramsay directs this film which Tilda playfully referred to as "the feel-good film of the year."

Other described as ethereal, Tilda has angular features—eyes that burn with intelligence, for instance—and a statuesque frame that make her a head-turner wherever she goes. Fashion designers love this woman, who was the late Princess Diana's contemporary at an exclusive boarding school.

TILDA talks on fashion: "It's about dressing up. I am very fortunate to have a lot of friends who make clothes. And when I wear their clothes, I feel like I'm in a kind of company with them. So I'm very blessed, but when I'm at home, I'm in my son's clothes because he's taller than me."

In the Time article, writer Catherine Mayer mentions the actress' 14-year-old twins, Hanne and Xavier, their father John Byrne who is 20 years older than Tilda, her "sweetheart" Sandro Kopp, who is 17 years her junior.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Roberto I. Arguelles

Below are excerpts from our interview:

We see in the film how somebody can act one way in front of a person and then behave differently in front of another person. Have you met people like that?

In many ways, that goes two ways as wearing to have performers. When I was about 18, going back to boarding school, I was on this train. I was on a compartment with other people, all adults, and I was sitting there, very composed and thinking, "I am invisible. I am so unhappy. I'm leaving my parents. I'm going off to school but nobody can tell by looking at me."

I've been very police in this lady. I've had a little conversation with this gentleman. All these people would say this: I was a perfect, composed 10-year-old. None of them would know how unhappy I was. Then I began to become aware of them. I thought, "What are you thinking?" That question keeps me performing.

You play a character with the stigma of the "bad mother." How important is physical contact with your kids?

One of the really delightful things about performing is that you get to act out things that are very far from yourself. My experience of motherhood is so completely different that there's no comparison at all with Eva's story. My children are angelic, I adore them. They say that if you hug your babies, they grow. Well, my children are enormous.

You come from a distinguished family of neighbors that goes as far back as the High Middle Ages.

All families are old. One distinctive thing about my family is that it was very lazy and just stayed in one place for a long time. My parents' and grandparents' generations were not artists. So when I came along as an artist, it did feel as if I had to make a new world for myself. But the longer I live, the more I study my family, and I realize there are artists all over the place. So I didn't fall far from the tree.

What kind of values are you instilling in your kids?

For a while now, particularly since I've lived in the Highlands of Scotland and had children, I have no fears

TILDA, G2

The British actress rewards us with yet another towering performance in 'We Need to Talk About Kevin,' a dark drama

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Tilda Swinton thought . . .

Pretty page A1

involved in any party politics. I haven't been really involved in any kind of political action mainly because I choose to be absorbed into my family and work.

But my children are my kind of political laboratory. I am very much involved in their education. My children go to a Waldorf Steiner School. I am very involved in trying to build a further program for the school so that they can stay in that project until they're 18. That's about as political as my life is these days . . .

Having said that, for me, art is political. I can't really imagine it not being political, that beyond that, I have nothing really to add. It's almost impossible to stay outside of practical politics. I would say that in the Highlands of Scotland, it actually is quite possible,

'One of the really delightful things about performing is that you get to act out things that are very far from yourself'

particularly if you have young children.

It's a deeply political act to put one's children into a Waldorf School. I'm very proud of our school and that particular environment. It works very well for my family and my children. It's an alternative schooling which talks about soul values, a child developing at his own rate and developing a really conscious attitude to the universe, and a feeling of social responsibility. No television, advertising, computers. They are great.

Would you say that this role is the most complex you've played?

I certainly feel a completion with this project. This is the fourth one. I have a joke with a friend of mine that we're going to bring out a boxed set called "The Matchstick" with these lone films of mothers. "The Deep End," "Julia," "I Am Love," and this film which are all looking at this perilous issue of being a mother. I'm very interested in this subject. Not only because I'm a mother but I think mainly because I have a mother. I'm a child of a mother, as we all are.

This film does feel like a completion for me, and I developed it alongside Lynne Ramsay for quite a few years. It was a very difficult film to get made because you can't imagine people readily giving you money to make something like this. So the fact that we've made it is really unimaginable.

E-mail the columnist at mmpalos.2001@yahoo.com. Follow him at http://twitter.com/mpalos.

TILDA Swinton with Rock Duer in "We Need to Talk About Kevin"

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 SHERLOCK HOLMES 3 (D) PG 13
2 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS 3 (D) G
3 SHERLOCK HOLMES 2 PG 13
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 4 PG 13
A MOTHER'S STORY

Events at the Grand Atrium

NEWPORT CINEMAS

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 10:45am, 1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:45pm
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 11:30am, 1:45pm, 3:45pm, 5:55pm, 8:05pm, 10:15pm
SHERLOCK HOLMES 2 11:15am, 2:15pm, 5:15pm, 8:15pm, 11:10pm
ENTERING HA-NO 11:15am, 1:45pm
SHERLOCK HOLMES 2 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 SHERLOCK HOLMES PG 13
2 SEGUNDA MANO
3 SECUNDA MANO
4 A MOTHER'S STORY
5 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS
6 SHERLOCK HOLMES PG 13
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL PG 13 ACTION

MOVIE TIME

GREENBELT 4
1> ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3
2> SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS
3> SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS
4> MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE 4
5> ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3
6> A MOTHER'S STORY
7> ENTRE NO INA MO

GREENBELT 5
1> ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3
2> SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS

GREENBELT 3
1> ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3
2> SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS
3> A MOTHER'S STORY / SEGUNDA MANO
4> MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE 4
5> ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3 / SHERLOCK HOLMES 2

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1> SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS
2> ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3
3> ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3 / SHERLOCK HOLMES 2
4> ENTRE NO INA MO / MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 4
5> A MOTHER'S STORY

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1> A MOTHER'S STORY
2> ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3
3> SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS
4> ENTRE NO INA NO / MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 4

MARQUEE
1> ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3
2> ENTRE NO INA MO / MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 4
3> SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS
4> A MOTHER'S STORY

MARKET! MARKET!
1> A MOTHER'S STORY
2> ENTRE NG INA MO
3> SEGUNDA MANO / MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 4
4> SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS
5> ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3
6> ISPIA NG CHIPMUNKS / MISSIONIMPOSSIBLE 4
7> RESERVED

TRINOMA
1> MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 4
2> ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3
3> SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOW
4> ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3
5> ENTERING HA NO / SEGUNDA MANO
6> A MOTHER'S STORY
7> SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS

ABREEZA
1> ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS 3
2> SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS
3> A MOTHER'S STORY
4> ENTRE NO INA NO / MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 4

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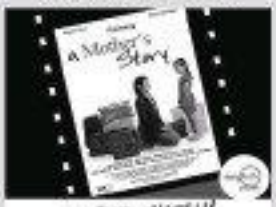

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OPENING TODAY

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows

Directed by Guy Ritchie; stars Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Rachel McAdams, Noomi Rapace, Paul Anderson, Stephen Fry, Jared Harris

Ritchie, Downey and Law reunite for the sequel to the 2009 hit "Sherlock Holmes," which finds the detective and his trusty sidekick Dr. Watson (Law) on the trail of Professor Moriarty (Harris), a criminal mastermind who's bent on destroying the world.

JACK Lord in "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows"

"ALVIN & the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked"

Alvin & the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked

Directed by Mike Mitchell; stars Jason Lee, Justin Long, Amy Poehler, Jason Bateman, Matthew Gray Gubler, Christina Applegate

Cruise holiday turns into an adventure as the Chipmunks get marooned on a desert island. When Yukon Nick (Schaal) says it "feels about as much of a vacation session as mine," Justin Chronicle's Magazine Passengers reader "Bonnie Wolfe" adds, our children shouldn't be playing with drones carrying explosives."

Pinoy short in Berlin, too

SHALVIN de la Cruz

AND THEN there were four. Andrew Jerome Bellamy Mia Abrahan's "Captive," Emanuel Tavenner's "Home" and Marlon Rivera's "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank," Filipino filmmaker Shaina de la Cruz's film "Feeling Shalvin" is also competing in the international section of the Berlinale Shorts in Germany next month. The short film tells the love story of a criminal and a prostitute. Prior to Berlin, De la Cruz's full-length fantasy film "Metamorosity" will have its world premiere at the Rotterdam festival's new lineup Jan. 25 to Feb. 5 in the Netherlands.

Reginel Gan Diego Jr.

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ENTERTAINMENT Living Stars

Editor Bonnie O. Velarde

Aretha on beau

ARETHA Franklin, on her engagement to Willie Wilkerson: "We were... just kind of talking along those lines, and then it got very serious. I said, 'Is that a proposal?' and he said, 'Yes.' That's what happened." AP

DID YOU KNOW...

AT THE terrace of her new condo unit in Quezon City

Sarah's shelter

By Rayzel San Diego Jr.
Photos by Andrew Tabalno

THESE days, it's not uncommon for young GMA 7 star Sarah Lahbati to burn the candle at both ends, since taplings for her daily soap opera "Reklek" and rehearsals for the Sunday variety show "Party Pilipinas" eat up much of her time.

It's hardly surprising then when she's free from work, she spends the entire day holed up in the condo unit she shares with mom Jackee and two pets, Claudie and Ollie.

"I sleep and eat on my days off," she told Living Stars. "Sometimes I bond with my neighbor, Bela." That's fellow Kapuso star Bela Padilla, who lives in the same condominium building. "I'm a laid-back person; I'd rather relax in my room."

Sarah said Bela had recommended the place to her and her mom. The Lahbatis used to live in Samantha, Cavite, but soon decided to rent a condo in Quezon City, near the GMA 7 studio. "I feel secure and comfortable here," Sarah said of the new pad.

In her bright and breezy room, Sarah, 18, reads books, watches DVDs, artistes her Pinkbikes bass guitar or surfs the Net. "I go on DVD marathons, watching

SARAH'S CHE

BEATLES fan is now studying guitar-playing.

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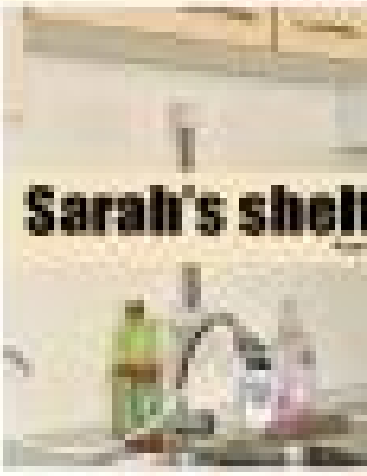
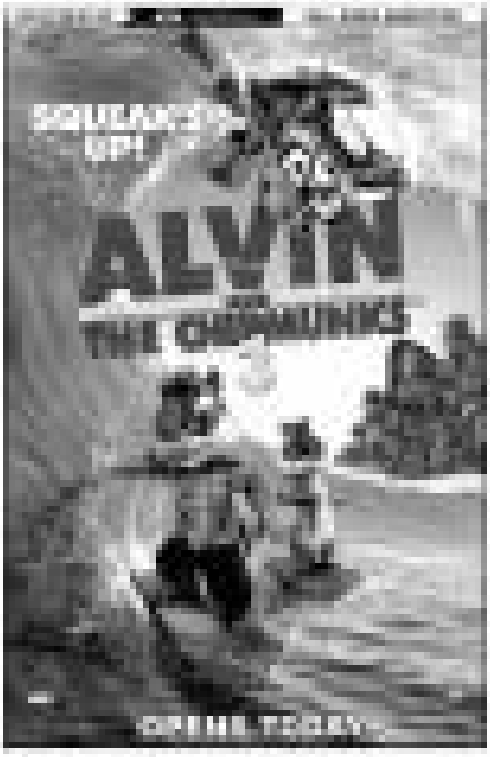
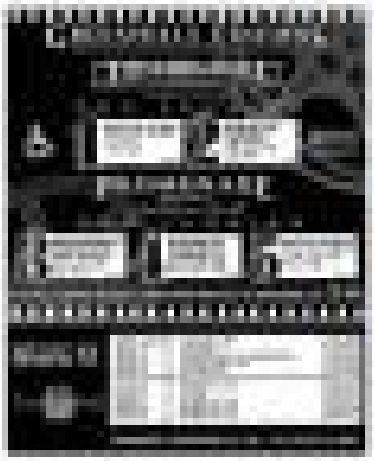
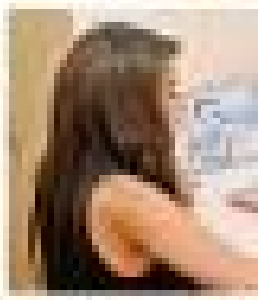
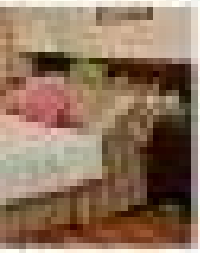
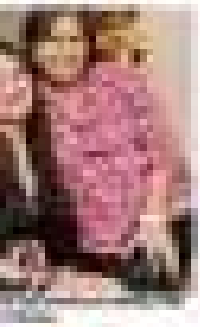


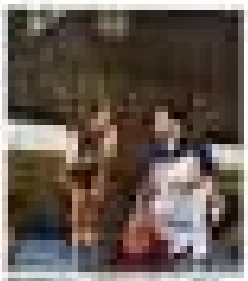


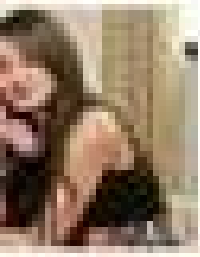




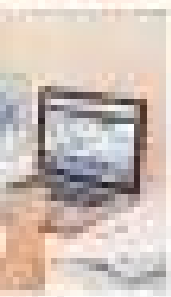








A Mother's Story



WATCH!

Diva in residence

Opera star Fides Cuyugan-Asensio shows no sign of slowing down after dazzling audiences for over six decades with memorable performances on stage, TV and film

By Ramon San Diego Jr.
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili
Additional photos courtesy of Fides Cuyugan-Asensio

FIDES works on "Epidaurus" with composer Ryan Cayabyab (left) and stage director Alex Cortes in 2005.

SHE AND husband Manuel Asensio Jr. were together for 61 years.

WHEN SHE walks into a room, it is always with flourish and drama. A true diva knows how to make an entrance.

Opera sensation Fides Cuyugan-Asensio descends a spiral staircase like a debutante moving gown in her living room—to somewhat restrained applause from a select group of friends and relatives who've equally proud of being a [illegible] soprano and a senior citizen.

YESTERDAY

She is always the first to ask and that she is a colorful mix of contradictions. Fides, whose text messages often read like eloquently composed love-letters, scoffs at the modern and the neoliberal, high art and pop culture—such effortless class.

The self-confessed "opera snob" brought classical and Broadway music to Philippine television via her landmark shows "Broadway Sweets Tuesday" (1969 to 1974) and "A Little Night of Music" (1989 to 2001).

She volunteered that the last also "flirted" with cinema—most famously in Peque Gallaga's 1982 epic "Oro, Plata, Mata," and more recently in Joy Nalzaro's Cinemalaya and Star Awards-winning "Ishmael."

INDEFATIGABLE at the also-veteran Marvelous...and vocalizes (and still plays) music.

Still dapper sharply, Fides told the listeners that she is puzzled by the attention she has received because of "Hello." She quipped, "I think I was just lucky that the film required an 80-year-old who could sing opera."

She revealed that the last time she got so much press was for her graduation recital at the Philippine Women's University in 1951. Only 26 at the time, she impressed a well-heeled crowd, which included her schoolmate Imelda Pacana, and National Artist for Music Jerón Facuro, who had played Cio-Cio San in an Italian staging of "Madame Butterfly." Her partner, Dr. Gervasio Santos Cuyugan and Asunción Belén, who were also present, credited their love to the piece.

Fides basked on the front page of the Manila Times, which declared, "A star is born." More significantly, she was praised by the grand dame herself, who proclaimed that the young soprano would "inherit my mantle someday."

Coincidentally, Irodes recorded "Ay Kalinad" for Odeon Records in Germany; it is the same 45-rpm vinyl that Fides performed in the death scene of "Hello." Irodes and Fides seem to be bound by the strange reunion threads of grief and quiet fortitude reverberating in both their lives.

Reality rooms

"I used to sing Ay Kalinad to my husband (Manuel Asensio Jr.) after he had a stroke on Easter Sunday 2000," Fides recounted. When the embattled ex-a concert host in the United States, she would regularly call her bed-ridden husband and sing to him on the phone. "He was like a lovesick baby then. He was quiet... but I knew he was listening because he would make noises whenever I stopped," she paused sharply on Dec. 26, 2004.

Whenever her characters sang to her sick brother (played by Tony Mabesa) in "Hello," Fides would fight tears of recollections. "It hit too close to home. It was a reality inside for me."

She is certain that she and Manuel, whom she married in 1954, were a perfect fit. He released her to pursue her career even while she raised their two sons, Jeremiah and Manuel III. To be sure, she was a constant shoal of her time, a working mom in the 1950s.

Although she was a classically trained soprano (she graduated as a voice scholar from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia in 1952), she had no qualms about appearing in the then-burgeoning medium called television.

She reminisced: "In the 1960s, I did commercials for Calica, Vicks VapoRub, Tanduay Orange, Silver Swan, Soy Sauce and Bar Bolipon. I'd needed someone who could speak good English, had stage training and would entrust her long heart to an artiste."

'Sacrilege'

Her church from the opera world ended that she had committed sacrilege. She examined undaunted. "I was criticized left and right. But who were they to rule? It was an honor being 'a made FOOL to FOOL [per se]'."

Her edict to produce exclusively and no an office from ABS-CBN, to host a TV show. Thus, the groundbreaking program "Sunday Sweet, Sunday" was born.

How did she maintain a major network to let her perform opera on primetime TV—something that the success of "NOAH" and "Pure Pilipinas" today wouldn't dare consider?

"Everyone thought Sunday sweet afternoon was a dead time slot," Fides said. "But it clicked for us." She cast robust Jamie Modenbach performed excerpts from both the classics ("Carmen," "Romeo and Juliet") and Broadway ("Camelot," "Camelot")—and, in the process, introduced the songs' famous beauty to the Filipino masses.

Talent fees for guests on "Sunday" were P75 per episode, she gauged. "My weekly salary was P3,000 but I did everything. I wrote the script, I designed the costumes. The opera singers were happy to join us because the show was a good venue for them."

Would it turn into a cult?

"Since we were on a Christmas, we had the privilege of announcing on local television the recent landing of Neil Armstrong and the Miss Universe win of Gloria Diaz on the same day in 1969," she pointed out.

A first

The show also holds the distinction of airing the country's first broadcast in color, she said. "It was called Colorvision and we performed Madame Butterfly, which was ideal because of its beautiful costumes and sets."

Fides said the program caught her nerves in underscoring the power of the so-called boob tube to educate and enlighten—as in culture and symphony.

She related: "Once, we aired a music marathon while singing 'When the World Needs Now is Love.' The Salvation Army sent an angry letter from a viewer who wished us for depriving a pot roaster."

When married her was declared in 1972, the show was moved over to Channel 4 and its former studio was gutted-out.

During the married law era, Fides hosted another TV show, "Dial" (directed by Al Quiroz), and which later became "Counter Call."

Then it was simply curtains for us," she hollered.

She temporarily bid ty herself, only to resurface in "A

SHE DUETS played Sandra Cavalet Sison in the 1 Hello.

AS A WORKING mom, Fides did commercials for several companies, including Calica.

FIDES and Jaime Melendez's performance of "Madame Butterfly" on "Sunday" was the country's first show broadcast in color.

Little Night of Music," which initiate John Lennox and Dulce's duetist Jose Guevara as cohosts. The late-night show ran for 13 years on GMA 7.

Fides is particularly proud of "A Little Night," which introduced budding talents Gigi Alcid, Lou Midelacion and Abel Rivera, among others, to the public in the early 1990s.

"We guested only artists who were willing to perform for free," she said. "We had a modest weekly budget, only P50,000—a paltry sum compared to the P300,000 weekly budget of the network's flagship program at the time, 'Flash.'"

In one episode the pianist-another saxophone singer, Joe Lizard, who was her daughter-in-law. "Joe married my son Manuel III. My only son with Inri, Maria, is a rock singer," the proud grandma said, beaming.

She has a total of five grandchildren. "My eldest Gerardo, a doctor, landed in an American Idol, but kicked and it based in Illinois," she said.

The savvy grocer fits the "daring" stereotype, but she's not about to trade in the bling lights for quiet domesticity without apologies to the US.

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A GAME OF SHADOWS

INTH daughters-in-law Inri Lazeri on the TV show, "A Little Night of Music."

AFTER her recital, Manila Times declared: "A star is born."

YOUNG Fides with husband Dr. Gervasio Santos Cuyugan, teacher Feliciano Tevaza and soon-parents Bebe (second, right).

SOMETIMES, she needs out to the garden to her Marikina home.

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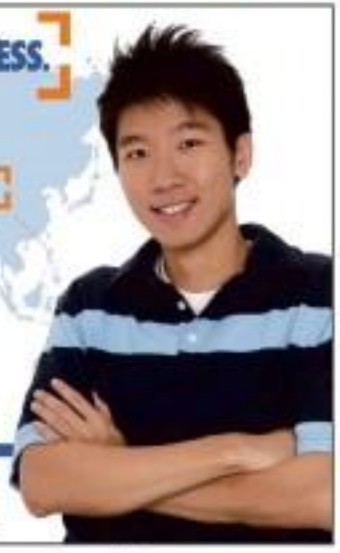

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- Oversee the project implementation, design and construction of the office building for the Office of the Executive Director
- Verifies and checks the quantities and qualities of the infrastructure development activities accomplished against approved plans, specifications, and programs of work
- Establish gap measures on the infrastructure projects of the Office of the Executive Director
- Coordinate with subcontractors and/or agency partners in the implementation of infrastructure development projects
- Assist the Office of the Executive Director in planning, scheduling and implementing the infrastructure development projects of the Philippine Science High School (PSHS) System and its campuses
- Advises the Office of the Executive Director on design and architectural requirements, testing and quality control and its appearances before commissions, boards or other judicial bodies
- Submits periodic reports on the status of infrastructure development projects of the PSHS System to the Executive Director
- Facilitate the proper documentation of infrastructure development projects of the PSHS System

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- Must be a licensed Civil Engineer with background in *government procurement*
- Must have at least 3 years of experience in civil works

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Senior Management and Technical Specialist

Chemonics seeks a senior management and fisheries/marine resource technical specialist for the anticipated five-year USAID-funded Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries Program (ECO-FISH) in the Philippines. The program seeks to increase biodiversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in identified marine key biodiversity areas using ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management as a cornerstone of improving social, economic and environmental benefits. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world. Responsibilities include:

- Provide technical direction and program leadership support
- Supervise and manage technical staff and project subcomponents and activities
- Collaboratively screen and implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management framework and coastal resource management plans for target marine ecosystems
- Serve as key liaison with USAID government counterparts, and local partners

Qualifications:

- An advanced degree in marine science, agriculture/fishery, community development, development management, public administration or related technical fields
- Minimum 10 years of senior technical level experience in developing and implementing fisheries/coastal resource management programs in the Philippines
- Experience designing, implementing, and managing large donor-funded projects in the Philippines' USAID's operational preferred
- Demonstrated success engaging with the Government of the Philippines and its counterparts
- Experience in monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge sharing
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency in English required

Application Instructions: Send electronic submissions to ECOFISHrecruitment@gmail.com by January 9th, 2012. Send cover letter, resume and a list of three references. Finalists will be contacted.

Sustainable Financing Specialist

Chemonics seeks a sustainable financing specialist for the upcoming five-year USAID-funded Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries Program (ECO-FISH) in the Philippines. The program seeks to increase biodiversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in identified marine key biodiversity areas using ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management as a cornerstone of improving social, economic and environmental benefits. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world. Responsibilities include:

- Identify existing and potential partnerships between the private sector and local government entities
- Provide technical assistance to develop and enhance strategies for private sector participation in long-term integrated fisheries management practices
- Serve as a key liaison for public sector counterparts

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in economics or relevant technical field
- Minimum 10 years of sustainable financing and private sector partnership experience, specifically demonstrated knowledge of identifying and developing partnerships between the private sector and local government entities in the Philippines
- Experience working with USAID or other donor organizations
- Demonstrated success engaging with the Government of the Philippines and its counterparts
- Familiarity with marine and coastal resource management and compliance in the Philippines
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency in English required

Application Instructions: Send electronic submissions to ECOFISHrecruitment@gmail.com by January 9th, 2012. Send cover letter, resume and a list of three references. Finalists will be contacted.

Governance and Institutional Development Specialist

Chemonics seeks a governance and institutional development specialist for the anticipated five-year USAID-funded Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries Program (ECO-FISH) in the Philippines. The program will seek to increase biodiversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in identified marine key biodiversity areas using ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management as a cornerstone of improving social, economic and environmental benefits. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world. Responsibilities include:

- Lead in the capacity building efforts on ecosystem approach to fishery management among national and local government agencies, NGOs, private sectors and other relevant stakeholders
- Identify and assess the potential for private sector participation in sustainable coastal and marine fishery management
- Work closely with other team members to carry out policy analysis, training and public awareness activities with follow-on assistance to promote more sustainable coastal and marine fishery management

Qualifications:

- Master' degree or equivalent experience in community development, anthropology, sociology, public administration or related fields
- Minimum 10 years of experience in governance, social science and community organization and development in the Asia/Pacific region and in developing countries, preferably in the Philippines
- Demonstrated experience in planning and/or working with technical and community development staff in how to coach community groups to define and resolve issues relating to natural resource use
- Experience in working for or with the private sector and have a good understanding of the private sector's concerns regarding coastal and marine resources
- Excellent interpersonal and team work skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency in English required

Application Instructions: Send electronic submissions to ECOFISHrecruitment@gmail.com by January 9th, 2012. Send cover letter, resume and a list of three references. Finalists will be contacted.

Training Systems Specialist

Chemonics seeks a training systems specialist for the anticipated five-year USAID-funded Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries Program (ECO-FISH) in the Philippines. The program will seek to conserve biodiversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in identified marine key biodiversity areas using ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management as a cornerstone of improving social, economic and environmental benefits. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people in the Philippines. Responsibilities include:

- Create and implement an international system design for a national government training program in the Philippines
- Management and oversight of a national training program delivery

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in education/pedagogy, instructional systems design or related fields
- Minimum of 10 years experience in developing and managing strategic training programs specifically for local and national government entities in the Philippines
- Experience working with USAID or other donor organizations
- Demonstrated success engaging with the Government of the Philippines and its counterparts and coordinating with multiple program partner institutions
- Familiarity with marine and coastal resource management and compliance in the Philippines
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency in English required

Application Instructions: Send electronic submissions to ECOFISHrecruitment@gmail.com by January 9th, 2012. Send cover letter, resume and a list of three references. Finalists will be contacted.

Senior Resource Economics Specialist

Chemonics seeks a senior resource economics specialist for the anticipated five-year USAID-funded Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries Program (ECO-FISH) in the Philippines. The program will seek to conserve biodiversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in identified marine key biodiversity areas using ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management as a cornerstone of improving social, economic and environmental benefits. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world. Responsibilities include:

- Lead in conducting economic analyses related to environmental protection and presenting economic information in formats that are understandable to national and local governments and other stakeholders
- Lead in collecting and quantifying benefits, costs, incentives, and impacts of alternative options using economic principles and statistical techniques
- Lead in conducting the socio-economic assessments and use this information in establishing baselines, and national and regional monitoring and application of ecosystem approach to fisheries management
- Work closely with other team members to carry out policy analysis, training and public awareness activities with follow-on assistance to promote more sustainable coastal and marine fishery management

Qualifications:

- Master degree in equivalent experience in economics, resource economics or related field
- Minimum 10 years of relevant experience in non-resource economics, environmental economics and related fields in the Asia/Pacific region and in developing countries, preferably in the Philippines
- Demonstrated experience in planning and/or working with technical and community development staff in how to coach community groups to define and resolve issues relating to biodiversity conservation and natural resource management
- Have experience in working with local and national government officials and a broad range of stakeholders, including those having communities and women's groups.
- Experience in working for or with the private sector and have a good understanding of the private sector's concerns regarding coastal and marine resources.
- Have at least a Excellent interpersonal and team work skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency in English required

Application Instructions: Send electronic submissions to ECOFISHrecruitment@gmail.com by January 9th, 2012. Send cover letter, resume and a list of three references. Finalists will be contacted.

Chief of Party

Chemonics seeks a chief of party for the anticipated five-year USAID-funded Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries Program (ECO-FISH) in the Philippines. The program will seek to conserve biodiversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in identified marine key biodiversity areas using ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management as a cornerstone of improving social, economic and environmental benefits. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people. Responsibilities include:

- Provide overall project leadership, management, and technical direction
- Serve as key liaison with USAID, government counterparts, and local partners
- Manage and supervise the work of project personnel and subcontractors
- Ensure that all project activities are technically sound and appropriate
- Collaboratively identify and implement a strategic, ecosystem approach to fisheries management
- Oversee project work planning, performance management and strategic communications

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in marine and coastal/fisheries management, biology, economics or relevant technical field
- Minimum 10 years international technical experience designing, implementing, and managing large donor-funded projects in the region (USAID experience preferred)
- Demonstrated experience interacting with government agencies, host country governments and counterparts, and international donor agencies
- Knowledge and proven successful experience in the field of public-private partnerships
- Proven success in managing and supervising staff
- Experience in monitoring, evaluation and knowledge sharing activities
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility and integrity
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency in English required
- Earn international conferences and Filipino nationals encouraged to apply

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- Technology: Microsoft Office 2003/2007
- Knowledge: Grants management and donor regulations

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The Transitional Shelter Coordinator will lead a team of CRS short-term staff in the implementation of a transitional shelter construction program. This will require adopting a standard shelter design using locally available materials, piloting, adjusting based on results of the pilot and construction in the rest of the intended beneficiaries. The Transitional Shelter Coordinator will build the capacity of the partner to implement transitional shelter projects. Project duration is six (6) months.

- Bachelor's degree in Social Science and other related field. Master's degree in relevant field is an advantage.
- Minimum of 5 years experience in construction, emergency experience preferred.
- Proven ability to provide technical assistance to partners in the implementation of the shelter program.
- Strong communication capability to build good client-personnel relationship with partners and other key players including Filipinos/ Iranian Dominican, local civilian authority, government officials at regional, provincial and local levels.
- Experience in project planning, use of M&E methods, and reporting.

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Jessie O. Cecilio

THESE ARE UNCERTAIN times. Just watch the evening news, or look out your window. On one hand, love friends and families are tearing each other apart. On the other, Hi-Gro is endorsing its next Romero. I said somewhere that Satan was so uncertain that Angelina Jolie could start adopting Americans only. Large multinationals are now laying off significant numbers of high-level, well-paid executives now just playing investment golf. You now get pre-declined, not pre-approved, credit cards on the mail. Where banks issue your check for insufficient funds, you need to ask if they would run it there.

The general call does and "what used to be" are gone and will never be back. When you think you found the love of your life, you suddenly discover he or she means so badly that you need addition to understand your dreams. Downtown lines a lot more to say. They think your worst nightmare lurks everywhere — on the streets, as you sit at home, in the boss, in the ads, to worse, on TV or radio. In breakdowns or setbacks, in the confident of prayer, in your bathroom, sick dinner or walk-in closet — waiting to hear that dreaded when you least expect it. It makes one wonder why, if they truly believe the scary stuff they preach, they keep on living.

Planned change

To many people, the future is obvious: breathing and dressing. His one lesson valued's going to happen. Even Jean Aitzner admits that "it is difficult to forecast, especially the future."

If you haven't noticed yet, even in the best of times, there are always people who gripe, moan, grumble or complain against the hindering of these uncertain times, it is truly insane to expect different results by doing the same things over and over. Planned change, not just change, is imperative if one exists to achieve lasting business leadership and performance.

Try to digest what Peter Drucker, Gary Hamel, Rosabeth Moss Kanter, Jack Welch, and other modern management gurus said and you will realize that they point to one thing — planned change. In fact, the lessons that IBM, 3M, MBM Corp., or Whirlpool learned is simple. "Change before you have to."

Business leadership

January 13 is the first of three

Jessie O. Cecilio

Tidbits: On URS in 2012. Prior to, this it is accepted our day to run a seminar on "Business Leadership in Difficult Times." Following are some learning to expect from this seminar, courtesy of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

Based on experts' opinions, I shall share four major initiatives required for surviving and succeeding during difficult times, as follows:

- create more competitive strategy and business model.
- nurture your network of partners.
- customize your organization — put more emphasis on relationships over processes and structures.
- attract and retain the best talents.

Rusiel strongly suggests business concept innovation — redesigning and changing your business model. His acknowledges for those who don't by introducing new products and services put forward. Wow, the revolutionaries will take your markets and your customers. Next, they'll take your best employees. Finally, they'll take your assets."

Difficult times call for creative strategies. And I recently, I convinced two clients to have some business models. The two, over advertiser is set to the business of making signboards — but in cool colors. The headliner is not in the recruitment business — but in creating effective relationships. Today, these companies have the second will be that by those who don't. Product cycles are shrinking, and strategy cycles are getting shorter, too. The blinding and head-snapping speed of change will ensure that any business concept will lose its economic efficiency sooner, before it could mature the enterprise. In a Gallup survey, 63% of 500 global CEOs believe that innovation will bring advantage of change, and won by changing the rules of the game.

Power of partnerships

Kanter believes in the power of the Web and the changing configuration of joining forces for mutual advantage. Today, whoever you think your competitors are, they aren't — and can come in because of technology. Small companies combine into partners for new markets. Front-end partnerships extend customer links and open wealth of information to customers. Alternatively, back-end partnerships provide technology to keep the network humming.

Temporary alliances provide shared resources to bring down costs for customers. Everywhere in the world today, outsourcing partnerships enhance organizational capabilities, not just for cost efficiency, but for flexibility, greater customer touch, quicker customer response, and overall customer value.

Great companies like IBM and Microsoft have realized that by enhancing their ecosystems with and outside their organization they can enhance productivity and customer value. These companies have provided every employee with an email address and have supplied pagers communication with email. They practically have no offices — working on everything, and they make executives available online for customers and other stakeholders.

New organizing rules

When I was young and silly, I often fussed each good wisdom as, "Of a square peg in a square hole, a round peg in a round hole." It seemed logical then, but today there are new rules, many rules, so many enough to work in a workplace gone crazy.

Try these. Decisions must be made not by those with the highest rank, but by those who know best. People can do anything not explicitly prohibited, instead of doing only what is explicitly permitted. Conflict is creative, not disruptive. Departments are created to collaborate, not work by themselves. And to break down the walls and silos.

Many will not agree with me, but I know that most management processes are controlled by the defenders of the past and the status quo. You got to have setbacks in your organization to get true change. Others, the necessarily is not expected to obtain. "We want a republic" and still likely perpetuate the current organization, as many if it is outdated irrelevant by the emerging market, like will at many makers, but like King Kong and the dinosaurs know no love, we could also be a dinosaur today. That's the reason why large conglomerates chopped their organizations into smaller business units to be agile enough to fight the upstarts and run at different speeds. In the end, teamwork is not the website you have, but it is big story. All that matters is what you do, and fast enough to start from where you are. Talk to me if you need help.

Win the talent war

The last initiative, not the least, in business leadership in difficult times, is winning the war for talent. Some CEOs don't get it right. They are more about getting all the high performers, but to keep only those you want to keep, longer than your competitors can. These days, nobody stays forever in one place. Others think that to attract talent you simply have to "up the ante." Promoting employees isn't a solution. The game changed and talents are no longer easily bribed into joining slapp organizations.

There is a new paradox in the talent war. Bosses really appreciate, but lack lifestyle, challenge, recognition and developmental are often more important. Real job security cannot be murdered or legislated. It is your ability to take responsibility for your actions and events, as you move from one function, company, or country to another. Current success does not always guarantee future ability. There is a three-dimensional flexibility for business and career — up, down, and sideways.

If you want to know more about initiatives for business leadership in difficult times, register with Most Brianz at ABRAHAM 8167911 or at brianz@abrahamphilippines.com. I shall share several case studies and best practices from successful multinationals.

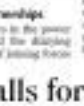
Let you want to wait a morning from Gary Russel in his business book, Leading the Revolution, "It's not that things were changed in the age of progress, they did. Old companies failed away — remember American Motors and Eastern Airlines? — and new companies emerged. But to use a metaphor from biological evolution, it was a world of punctuated equilibrium, where change happened by desires and relative spasmodic re-

Jessie O. Cecilio

dustry now $B1 billion. Today we live in a world that's all punctuation and no equilibrium. We are witnessing a Cambrian explosion of new companies in the world. In this new age, a company that's evolving slowly is already on its way to extinction."

If you serve in various capacities as the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) and the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and other professional and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in 2013, be sure given opportunities at Diplomacy in People Management (DPM) and send "Best Newspaper Columnist of the Year" (for Mr. Sunday Inquirer column) by PMAP writer by win President in 2009. He is the President and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Centers a human resource consulting firm, now in Cebu City. "Life Lessons" and "Life's Big Lies" are now available at book stores. He can be reached at cecilio_jacob@yahoo.com)

New year calls for new beginnings



L-EARNING MOMENTS

Elite Dada Pasagyo

THE QUIET HOPE OF THE new year 2011 draws us to reflect on new beginnings. It urged me to renew list of old relationships, relationships with family and friends. Together as family, we succeeded amidst the household surroundings of the presence of a beautiful and the evening of another year passed. Our thanking in family was deep and serene. There is the renewal of friendships like BFF best friends forever that go back to our youths. There friendships make life enjoyable and fulfilling.

Then the new beginnings in terms of how we view and live our work. Our work is truly God's gift, like way of making us participate in His continuing work of creation and recreation.

Innovation as Theme

Two days before Christmas, we came together as a company to a strategic planning exercise where we focused on "innovation" as theme. Both the process and strategies point to a clear direction. Companies that innovate will lead the way. Those who remains still, what worked in the past will return the dipping of their growth curve. We examined emerging business streams that spoke of what clients wanted and needed. So how do we fulfill and respond in breakthrough ways to them. We were into discussion with heart burning with the desire to our slogan part of "transforming data's enterprise".

At the end of two day's work everyone was energized to "innovate ourselves towards breakthrough growth". After all did not the fourth of more jobs came as to pause from our daily grind need by his greater and how he has managed to change the world through his innovations?

Innovation Works

With much expectation we look forward to the arrival of innovation experts, Herman Gyr and Lisa Friedman, our friends for over 15 years, who in January 17 to 20 will be in the country. They have come to share the "CEO Innovation Agenda". They will to develop with more 100 chief executive officers or members of what is now known as the 3-Suits (CEOs, CFOs, CHROs, etc.) how precisely as leaders, they can push their team to move to innovate in a rapidly changing internal environment.

They share from actual experience working with a variety of industries such as technology, health care, telecoms, media, automobile, BPOs, financial industries, among others. They also bring with them software tools to nurture the spread of innovation ideas in the organization that really adds value to the customer.

CEO Forum

We are happy that ABM Institute Innovation through the Alumni Relations Office, the Philippine Daily Inquirer and other associations have agreed to come in as co-sponsors in this program that we only benefit our enterprises and our country. As our country's President said, "It's a high time that we move from simply being creative to making innovations work for competition and the good of the country."

Innovation Boot Camp

What follows after the CEO Forum is the innovation boot camp. Participants come from what we call the "performance support" for innovation. These are the internal change agents who may have a burnt to resource information or technology to disseminate background

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drinking to test how to move and, in the boot camp, come up with projects and initiatives that work and pay handsome dividends for enterprises.

Almost for a small group of 30 participants the bootcamp provides working concepts and best of all skills, to an exciting 3 days of learning and fun, the workshops can also be replicated by participants to their own work settings.

We look forward to having conversations with you if we have the honors of your presence for either the CEO Forum or the Innovation Boot Camp. There are still open slots for the CEO Forum.

For more details contact Elite Mendoza at 556-32-35/36 or 38, or visit our web site www.abmbooks.com.ph.

(Elite Dada Pasagyo is the President and CEO of Asset Enhancement Development Consulting, an innovative provider of Organization Development and Training solutions in the ASEAN region. These solutions include strategy development and execution, managing change business process improvement

Pag-IBIG borrowers may file insurance claims for properties affected by "Sendong"

ISCP PRESIDENT Jaime Binay, who is also Chairman of the Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees, declared in his recent visit to Cagayan de Oro and Iligan that Pag-IBIG housing loan borrowers whose mortgaged properties were structurally damaged or affected by typhoon "Sendong" may claim insurance on their properties.

Affected members are advised to file their claim for fire and allied perils insurance at the nearest Pag-IBIG Field Branch office, according to Pag-IBIG CEO Gullerlo Barbers-ebe. Pag-IBIG will assist its members claim from the insurance companies that insured their property, Hernandez added.

Insurance claims are subject to the terms and conditions of the insurance company and shall be processed upon the submission of all required documents. Requirements include application of insurance, sworn statement of formal claim, non-waiver of agreement, cost of damages, bill of materials, and, in case of total loss of property, a statement signed by architect or engineer. The forms for the first three requirements may be requested from the Billing and Collection Department of the operating unit where the loan was made or may be downloaded from the Pag-IBIG Fund website at www.pagibig.fund.gov.ph. The cost of damages and bill of materials may be prepared by a licensed engineer or architect.

As part of the requirements, affected borrowers are advised to submit photographs of the property, also showing the particular structural damages.

In case of partial damage, set insurance proceeds amounting to less than or equal to P50,000 shall be subject to one-time release. Amounts in excess of P50,000 shall be subject to inspection and assessment of the Fund.

For more information, borrowers may visit the Pag-IBIG Cagayan de Oro Branch (Immortal J.P. Borja St., Cagayan de Oro City or call telephone numbers (088)221-7208/221-7209/221-7210/221-7211/221-7212/221-7213/221-7214/221-7215/221-7216/221-7217/221-7218/221-7219/221-7220/221-7221/221-7222/221-7223/221-7224/221-7225/221-7226/221-7227/221-7228/221-7229/221-7230/221-7231/221-7232/221-7233/221-7234/221-7235/221-7236/221-7237/221-7238/221-7239/221-7240/221-7241/221-7242/221-7243/221-7244/221-7245/221-7246/221-7247/221-7248/221-7249/221-7250/221-7251/221-7252/221-7253/221-7254/221-7255/221-7256/221-7257/221-7258/221-7259/221-7260/221-7261/221-7262/221-7263/221-7264/221-7265/221-7266/221-7267/221-7268/221-7269/221-7270/221-7271/221-7272/221-7273/221-7274/221-7275/221-7276/221-7277/221-7278/221-7279/221-7280/221-7281/221-7282/221-7283/221-7284/221-7285/221-7286/221-7287/221-7288/221-7289/221-7290/221-7291/221-7292/221-7293/221-7294/221-7295/221-7296/221-7297/221-7298/221-7299/221-7300/221-7301/221-7302/221-7303/221-7304/221-7305/221-7306/221-7307/221-7308/221-7309/221-7310/221-7311/221-7312/221-7313/221-7314/221-7315/221-7316/221-7317/221-7318/221-7319/221-7320/221-7321/221-7322/221-7323/221-7324/221-7325/221-7326/221-7327/221-7328/221-7329/221-7330/221-7331/221-7332/221-7333/221-7334/221-7335/221-7336/221-7337/221-7338/221-7339/221-7340/221-7341/221-7342/221-7343/221-7344/221-7345/221-7346/221-7347/221-7348/221-7349/221-7350/221-7351/221-7352/221-7353/221-7354/221-7355/221-7356/221-7357/221-7358/221-7359/221-7360/221-7361/221-7362/221-7363/221-7364/221-7365/221-7366/221-7367/221-7368/221-7369/221-7370/221-7371/221-7372/221-7373/221-7374/221-7375/221-7376/221-7377/221-7378/221-7379/221-7380/221-7381/221-7382/221-7383/221-7384/221-7385/221-7386/221-7387/221-7388/221-7389/221-7390/221-7391/221-7392/221-7393/221-7394/221-7395/221-7396/221-7397/221-7398/221-7399/221-7400/221-7401/221-7402/221-7403/221-7404/221-7405/221-7406/221-7407/221-7408/221-7409/221-7410/221-7411/221-7412/221-7413/221-7414/221-7415/221-7416/221-7417/221-7418/221-7419/221-7420/221-7421/221-7422/221-7423/221-7424/221-7425/221-7426/221-7427/221-7428/221-7429/221-7430/221-7431/221-7432/221-7433/221-7434/221-7435/221-7436/221-7437/221-7438/221-7439/221-7440/221-7441/221-7442/221-7443/221-7444/221-7445/221-7446/221-7447/221-7448/221-7449/221-7450/221-7451/221-7452/221-7453/221-7454/221-7455/221-7456/221-7457/221-7458/221-7459/221-7460/221-7461/221-7462/221-7463/221-7464/221-7465/221-7466/221-7467/221-7468/221-7469/221-7470/221-7471/221-7472/221-7473/221-7474/221-7475/221-7476/221-7477/221-7478/221-7479/221-7480/221-7481/221-7482/221-7483/221-7484/221-7485/221-7486/221-7487/221-7488/221-7489/221-7490/221-7491/221-7492/221-7493/221-7494/221-7495/221-7496/221-7497/221-7498/221-7499/221-7500/221-7501/221-7502/221-7503/221-7504/221-7505/221-7506/221-7507/221-7508/221-7509/221-7510/221-7511/221-7512/221-7513/221-7514/221-7515/221-7516/221-7517/221-7518/221-7519/221-7520/221-7521/221-7522/221-7523/221-7524/221-7525/221-7526/221-7527/221-7528/221-7529/221-7530/221-7531/221-7532/221-7533/221-7534/221-7535/221-7536/221-7537/221-7538/221-7539/221-7540/221-7541/221-7542/221-7543/221-7544/221-7545/221-7546/221-7547/221-7548/221-7549/221-7550/221-7551/221-7552/221-7553/221-7554/221-7555/221-7556/221-7557/221-7558/221-7559/221-7560/221-7561/221-7562/221-7563/221-7564/221-7565/221-7566/221-7567/221-7568/221-7569/221-7570/221-7571/221-7572/221-7573/221-7574/221-7575/221-7576/221-7577/221-7578/221-7579/221-7580/221-7581/221-7582/221-7583/221-7584/221-7585/221-7586/221-7587/221-7588/221-7589/221-7590/221-7591/221-7592/221-7593/221-7594/221-7595/221-7596/221-7597/221-7598/221-7599/221-7600/221-7601/221-7602/221-7603/221-7604/221-7605/221-7606/221-7607/221-7608/221-7609/221-7610/221-7611/221-7612/221-7613/221-7614/221-7615/221-7616/221-7617/221-7618/221-7619/221-7620/221-7621/221-7622/221-7623/221-7624/221-7625/221-7626/221-7627/221-7628/221-7629/221-7630/221-7631/221-7632/221-7633/221-7634/221-7635/221-7636/221-7637/221-7638/221-7639/221-7640/221-7641/221-7642/221-7643/221-7644/221-7645/221-7646/221-7647/221-7648/221-7649/221-7650/221-7651/221-7652/221-7653/221-7654/221-7655/221-7656/221-7657/221-7658/221-7659/221-7660/221-7661/221-7662/221-7663/221-7664/221-7665/221-7666/221-7667/221-7668/221-7669/221-7670/221-7671/221-7672/221-7673/221-7674/221-7675/221-7676/221-7677/221-7678/221-7679/221-7680/221-7681/221-7682/221-7683/221-7684/221-7685/221-7686/221-7687/221-7688/221-7689/221-7690/221-7691/221-7692/221-7693/221-7694/221-7695/221-7696/221-7697/221-7698/221-7699/221-7700/221-7701/221-7702/221-7703/221-7704/221-7705/221-7706/221-7707/221-7708/221-7709/221-7710/221-7711/221-7712/221-7713/221-7714/221-7715/221-7716/221-7717/221-7718/221-7719/221-7720/221-7721/221-7722/221-7723/221-7724/221-7725/221-7726/221-7727/221-7728/221-7729/221-7730/221-7731/221-7732/221-7733/221-7734/221-7735/221-7736/221-7737/221-7738/221-7739/221-7740/221-7741/221-7742/221-7743/221-7744/221-7745/221-7746/221-7747/221-7748/221-7749/221-7750/221-7751/221-7752/221-7753/221-7754/221-7755/221-7756/221-7757/221-7758/221-7759/221-7760/221-7761/221-7762/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CLASSIFIEDS

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), the largest corporate-led nonprofit social development foundation in the Philippines, through its duly and lawful committee (BAC) invites interested bidders to submit application for eligibility and subsequently to bid for the:

I. PARTICULARS

Construction of 1 School Building (3 Classrooms)

A. Name of School / Location:
Bangkulasi Elementary School (3 classrooms)
Brgy. Bangkulasi, Indanan, Sulu(Sulu Island)

B. Approved Budget Cost (ABC): P1,322,973.04

C. Scope of Work:
1. General Expenses
2. Foundation (Stone Masonry)

D. Equipment Required:
To be specified later

E. Project Duration: Sixty (60) calendar days

II. REQUIREMENTS:
A. Incorporation/Registration - Under Building
B. Experience - Similar in nature and/or complexity with at least 50% of the awarded
Duly for copy (ies) of same or similar to the Eligibility statement.

III. SCHEDULE:
1. Issuance of Eligibility Forms: **JAN. 9-13, 2012**
2. Pre-Bid Conference and Submission of Eligibility Documents: **Jan. 16, 2012 at 2PM**
Pilot Training Area, Office
Brgy. Tanum Indanan, Sulu
3. Deadline for Submission of Duly Accomplished Eligibility Forms: **JAN. 13, 2012 at 10:00 AM**
PBSP Zamboanga Field Office
Brgy. Tetuan, Zamboanga City
4. Opening of Bids: **JAN. 16, 2012 at 10:00 AM**
PBSP Zamboanga Field Office
Brgy. Tetuan, Zamboanga City
5. Notification of Award: **Within 5 days**
6. Notice to Proceed: **Within 5 days**
7. Duration of Project: **60 calendar days**
8. Deadline for Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) and duly accomplished Eligibility Forms: **JAN. 13, 2012 at 10:00 AM**
PBSP Zamboanga Field Office
Brgy. Tetuan, Zamboanga City

PBSP reserves its responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids.

(Sgd.) **R. CESARIO N.**
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PH) – Jan. 9, 2012

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dti

INVITATION TO BID
FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS IT/INTERNAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

1. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites interested bidders for the supply, delivery and installation of the following:

Lot No.	Particulars	Item/Description	Qty.	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Delivery Period/ Completion Period
1	Purchase and delivery of Microsoft Licensed Software (Microsoft Windows 7 Ultimate, Microsoft Office 2010 Professional Plus)	Computer Hardware and Peripherals	10 units	₱ 500,000.00	10 days
2	Purchase and delivery of Computer Hardware and Peripherals	Computer Hardware and Peripherals	10 units	₱ 500,000.00	10 days
3	Purchase and delivery of Computer Hardware and Peripherals	Computer Hardware and Peripherals	10 units	₱ 500,000.00	10 days

2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to associations or cooperatives registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and which are eligible to participate in the procurement of Lot(s) under the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Publication.

3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Unit of the Department of Trade and Industry and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents pursuant to the latest Guidelines issued by the GPPB, in the amount of One Thousand Pesos only (₱1000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Invitation to Bid is posted on the website of the DTI and on the PhilGEPS website. For more information, please refer to: Ms. Lolibeth B. Castillo, BAC Chairperson, DTI Bagong Pagasa Building, Quezon Boulevard, Quezon City, telephone number 7524744 local 2101, telefax number 7524744 local 2102, email address lolibeth.castillo@dti.gov.ph.

4. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **January 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on **January 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM** at the Ground Floor, DTI Bagong Pagasa Building, Quezon Boulevard, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.

5. The DTI BAC reserves the right and sole discretion to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

6. For further information, please refer to:

Ms. Lolibeth B. Castillo
BAC Chairperson

Noted by:
(Sgd.) **RAMON M. DE VERA**
General Manager

(PH) – January 9, 2012

Cultural Center of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID
PAINT AND REPAINTING OF SECURITY BOOTHS

The Cultural Center of the Philippines through the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) CY 2012 intends to apply the sum of Seven Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱700,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the project for the Paint and Repainting of Security Booths.

1. The Cultural Center of the Philippines now invites bids for the Paint and Repainting of Security Booths. Completion of the Project is required within Ten (10) years from the date of submission and opening of bids or contract award for the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Sec. 3 (Instructions to Bidders).

2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to associations or cooperatives registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and which are eligible to participate in the procurement of Lot(s) under the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Publication.

3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Cultural Center of the Philippines and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents pursuant to the latest Guidelines issued by the GPPB, in the amount of One Thousand Pesos only (₱1000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Invitation to Bid is posted on the website of the DTI and on the PhilGEPS website. For more information, please refer to: Ms. Lolibeth B. Castillo, BAC Chairperson, DTI Bagong Pagasa Building, Quezon Boulevard, Quezon City, telephone number 7524744 local 2101, telefax number 7524744 local 2102, email address lolibeth.castillo@dti.gov.ph.

4. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **January 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on **January 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM** at the Ground Floor, DTI Bagong Pagasa Building, Quezon Boulevard, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.

5. The Cultural Center of the Philippines reserves the right and sole discretion to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

6. For further information, please refer to:

(SIGNATURE OVER PRINTED NAME)
(SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE COB PROJECT)
Bids and Awards Committee
Cultural Center of the Philippines
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
Tel No. 832-1125 to 39 local 1800
Fax No. 832-1125 to 39 local 1800
Email Address: bac@culturalcenter.gov.ph
Web Site: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **ISABELITA C. SUNICO**
BAC Chairman

(PH) – January 9, 2012

NESCO II
Area 3

INVITATION FOR ACCREDITATION

The **NUEVA ECIJA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. – Area 3 (NESCO II – Area 3)** through its Procurement, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) is inviting bidders to a Pre-qualification, Application for Eligibility to Bid and re-Accreditation Conference for the Supply of the Corporation's requirements on Electrical Materials and Equipments.

The conference will be conducted on **January 20, 2012 at ten o'clock (10:00) in the morning** here at NESCO II – Area 3 conference room, Barangay Pinanay, Bronzuela, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija. Eligibility documents such as but not limited to Company Profile may be submitted upon registration at the PBAC Secretariat. Registration Fee is Php 1,000.00.

Yours respectfully,
(Sgd.) **LOLITA B. CASTILLO**
PBAC Chairwoman

Noted by:
(Sgd.) **RAMON M. DE VERA**
General Manager

(PH) – January 9, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Telefax No. 929-65-97 • 929-80-74

Shellfish Bulletin No. 01
Series of 2012
06 January 2012

Based on the latest laboratory results of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and Local Government Units (LGUs), shellfishes collected in **Bumangabbian Bay in Zamboanga del Sur; Mandaragas Bay in Zamboanga del Norte; and Maunlon Occidental, Misamis Bay in Zamboanga, Dakam coastal waters (Barrucao, Lumay, Union, Pilar, Balangas, Gran, Mauway and Nasnas); and Malamawan Bay in Eastern Samar** are not potable for consumption until further notice.

All types of shellfish and finfish (as in skimming gathered from the areas shown above are NOT SAFE for human consumption. Fish, squids, shrimps, and crabs are safe for human consumption provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly, and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking.

The following areas continue to be **FREE** from toxic red tides: coastal waters of Cuyo, Luzi Pinoy, Plantacion, Hercules and Bolacan in Manila Bay; coastal waters of Bolinao, Anda, Alaminos and Sual in Pangasinan; coastal waters of Milagros and Mandaon in Masbate; Ipag Lagoon in Mobong and Sorsogon Bay in Sorsogon; Aroids and Puerto Bay in Puerto Princesa City; and Iwan-Batangan Sound in Tinang, Palawan; coastal waters of Pilar, President Roxas, Portocarlo, Panay, Roxas City, Ivisan and Sapian in Capiz; coastal waters of Ulingan, Pontevedra, Pulupandan, Valladolid, Talisay City, Silay City, Bacolod City, Hinigaran, Cadiz City, Victorias City, Sagay City and San Enrique in Negros Occidental (comprising "Binalayan-and" Ahreal Bays in Negros Oriental; Tres Reales Carcadillos and Caligara Bays in Leyte; Bitaog waters in Biliran Province; Hinatuan, Bislig and Lianga Bays in Surigao del Sur; Balite Bay in Mati, Davao Oriental; and Tagolaya Lagoon in Bansud Mulanay, Compostela Valley).

ATTY. ANN G. PEREZ
Director II

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

EDWIN F. LLOVIA

(PH) – January 9, 2012

CEBRAR SEMINAR

120 hours credit for Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar and Review

(Jan. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24 and 25/Feb. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29/Mar. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31/Apr. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30/May 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31/Jun. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30/Jul. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31/Aug. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31/Sep. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29/Oct. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31/Nov. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 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31/Nov. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30/Dec. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31/2018 Jan. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31/Feb. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28/Mar. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31/Apr. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30/May 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31/Jun. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30/Jul. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31/Aug. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 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INVITATION TO QUALIFY SUPPLIERS FOR BIDDING

The CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (CI) affiliate in the Philippines Children Joint Karney Inc. (CJKarney) City Strong League Karen Inc. (CSLegaspi Child Sponsorship for Community Development Inc.-Legaspi) & CI-Palawan (Child Sponsorship for Community Development Inc.-Palawan), an non-profit, child welfare institutions duly accredited by the DSWD, are engaged in providing benefits & services to about 60,000 sponsored children, are inviting legitimate manufacturers, suppliers & service providers for 2012 accreditation, for the supply of the Common Requirements of each of the four CI - Philippine service operating agencies, such as:

A. Children's Items Clothing
B. Footwear
C. Drug/Medical Pharmacy, Medicine Service Providers for each agency's service area
D. Medical & Dental supplies
E. Medical Laboratories
F. School supplies
G. Office Supplies, equipment and furniture
H. Consultants, lawyers, printers & other professionals
I. Drinking Water containers with dispensers
J. Security Agencies
K. Insurance agencies
L. Non-life insurance
M. Property insurance

Additional Agency Requirements

Cheltenham	Cheltenham City	Cl-Legaspi	Cl-Palawan
• Sleep wear Pajama • Multipurpose plastic bag • Tent • Training Venues • Textbooks for Elementary • Hardware & Construction materials • Printing Press • Pharmacy Services Provider for Bureau or Office of Children's Concern & Calamity Stations	• Sleep wear Pajama • Multipurpose plastic bag • Tent • Training Venues • Hardware & Construction materials • Computer Consumables • Printing Press • Motorbike • School Uniforms • Biometrics Fingerprint scanner	• Fabrics for Hardware & Construction materials • Agriculture Supplies • Home Furnishing/ Appliances	• Plastic bags • Bed sheets • Doctor/ Clinics • PCAB Licensed Contractors

Interested parties must submit the following accreditation requirements:

1. Company Profile
2. Certified copy of latest BIR Reg
3. Certified copy of latest DTI or SEC Reg
4. Certified copy of 2012 Mayor's permit
5. Certified copy of Sales Invoice
6. Certified copy of Official Receipts
7. Bank references
8. Endorsement by at least 2 suppliers & 2 clients

For inquiries and Pre-qualifications documents, please contact each CI affiliates where you are interested at:

Childrens International	Offices Address	Contact Persons	Tel. Nos/E
CI-Manila Abot Karney Inc. (AKI)	Block 10 Lot 19, Skyfield St., Dasmariñas Subdv. Brgy. Kaligayahan, Novaliches District, Quezon City	Dominiano Laurence III Evangelista Angela Rizu Dizon	daycare@cis-children.org.ph Tel: 417-2048 /439-3629 Mob#:0921 661 4611 / 0917 401 7401 Fax - 939-3387
CI-Cebu City Strong League Karen Inc. (CSLK)	2 Inc. Free Press, Mabolo Cebu City	Jonalito Ortiz Ritchie Cabrez	cebu@cis-children.org.ph Tel 417-2048 ext. 502 Fax: 272-099
CI-Legaspi Child Sponsorship for Community Development Inc (CSCDI)	Diversion Road, Brgy. 14, Daraga, Legaspi City	Rosa Mae A. Bruno Jocelyn S. Balusa	legaspi@cis-children.org.ph Tel/Fax:(052) 480-6661 480-3067
CI-Tacloban Child Sponsorship for Community Development Inc. (CSCDI)	Zone 3, Palma-Gil, Brgy. 88, Zone 3, Sto. Tenias, Mishayo, Abuy	Pio C. Salvador Noel Bienvenido Mahinay Cebanajo	stacruzcsc@cis-children.org.ph Tel: 337-0511/ or 447-5170 loc. 203 or 303

(CI) - January 08, 2012

For sale or lease:

The Columbia Tower Units 141, 142

Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

For more information
Please call Anna at Tel. No. 403-2740;
or e-mail cybelean_properties@yahoo.com

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 920-6446 to 64 ■ 920-6449 to 65
Email: member_relations@sss.gov.ph ■ Website: http://www.sss.gov.ph

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCIES

The Social Security System is in need of the following:

POSITION TITLE	JOB SUMMARY	QUALIFICATION STANDARDS			
		EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE	TRAINING	ELIGIBILITY
ONE (1) VICE-PRESIDENT/SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT (CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL) (LAWYER, FOR LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION	The Vice President/ Senior Vice President/Chief Legal Counsel is responsible for planning, organizing, controlling and supervising the activities of the Division which include providing expert legal advice to the President and CEO and top management and is also responsible for the efficient implementation of legal processes to ensure that the rights, interests and assets of the System and its members are protected and upheld.	Master of Laws	At least 10 years of supervisory/ managerial/ legal experience in the practice of legal profession	At least 120 hours of relevant legal training and at least 40 hours of supervisory/ managerial training	RA 1080 (BAR)
ONE (1) VICE-PRESIDENT/ SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER (LAWYER) FOR MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION	The Chief Medical Officer is responsible for planning, organizing, directing, coordinating and controlling the activities of the Division which include providing prompt and effective advice to the President and CEO related to medical programs and other medical related matters, and is also responsible for the continuous enhancements of medical benefit programs, and ensuring its uniform implementation by the branches.	Doctor of Medicine and Fellow of relevant accredited specialty society	At least 10 years of supervisory/ managerial experience in medical programs/ services	At least 120 hours of relevant training/seminars and at least 80 hours of relevant managerial training	RA 1080 (PHYSICIAN)

Interested applicants may submit their resume (+1 photo), resume , transcript of records and application at the Human Resource Staffing and Development Department (HRSDD), 6F SSS Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission of applications will be on Wednesday, January 18, 2012.

(PI) - January 8, 2012

PROPERTIES FOR FORECLOSURE AUCTION

Our Group of Companies invites everyone to bid at the public auctions for the foreclosure sale of the following properties:

OCT No.	Location	Type	Lot Area (sq. m. or has.)	Appraised Value/Upset Bid Price	Date and Time of Auction	Place of Auction
T-55,825 T-55,826	Located on the northeast corner of Lot 4, Cavite Demo and p. Rizal Apartment, Road Lemon, Purok 10, Barangay Tulahanan, Cavite de Tierra City Road 1.5 kilometers east from the corner of National Highway and Hidden Road 1.5 kilometers northeast from Lagro Public Market and approximately 100 meters/kilometers from the City proper	Agricultural Land, Usually Tarlac	25,000 (2.500)	1,000,000	Aug. 15, 2012 10:00 a.m.	In the office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court Hall of Justice, Legaspi General Santos City
T-6,001	Located on the southeast corner of 3 Cruising Road Cavite, Old Cavite Road and Lemon Avenue, Barangay Tulahanan (Zone 3, Tejero City, Cavite City Road 1.5 kilometers east from Road Lemon, 400 meters south from the corner of National Highway and Tejero Avenue and approximately 1.00 kilometers north from the city hall	Vacant Residential Land	600	100,000	Aug. 15, 2012 10:00 a.m.	In the premises of the Regional Trial Court - Building, Hall of Justice, Nagpayong Street, Legaspi City, Province of

All properties are to be sold on "As-Is, Where-Is" basis. Interested bidders are advised to conduct an independent evaluation of the property through title verification and investigation of the physical and legal condition of the property prior to the auction sale.

For further information, please contact us at (02) 891-7888 loc. 2111 or send an email to: foreclosedpropertiesbid@yahoo.com

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CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN
HOUSEHOLD
HOUSEHOLD NEEDS
LIPAT BAHAY
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
CONDO/TOWNHOUSE
MEMORIAL LOT
LOT
1.0M @ CMCC
REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
CONDO/TOWNHOUSE
APARTMENT
HOUSE
ROOM & BOARD
HOUSE & LOT
COMMERCIAL
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT
CONDO/TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE/RENT
TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE
CARS
TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT
CAR LOAN
GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE
MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS
PRINTING EQUIPMENT
PETS
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Supplement Head: Jong Arcasas

NDRCC honors Santiago with Kalasag award

THE CITY Government of Santiago in Isabela was recently awarded by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council the Gawad Kalasag (Kalasag Award or Sekurat LAhon, sAriling Galing ang Kalinyanan) for its best practices in Disaster Risk Management (DRM). According to city mayor Amelia Navarro, Santiago topped the award because of its self-reliant and proactive programs, help-driven readiness coherent achieved localities, and the institutionalization of the DRRM Office in the City Government, the first of its kind in the Cagayan Valley Region. The city's preemptive evacuation resulted in zero casualty.

In related developments, Santiago was also awarded by the Department of the Interior and Local Government with the General Pantanos ng Lahi, the Seal of Good Housekeeping and Hall of Outstanding Implementation on Anti-Red Tape Program in Region 2. Other national awards include the CHAMPS (Considered Regional Outstanding Alliance in Solutions) Award, the Presidential award for the Most Child-Friendly Cities, and the Galing Pook Awards entitled "Youth Investing for Youth Program".

Cagayan Valley's commercial center, Santiago was declared an independent component city On May 5, 1994 by virtue of Republic Act 7720, thus becoming the first city in the Region.

Shown in photo are DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo and Mayor Amelia Navarro joined by local officials and barangay heads of the city.

HOTEL LOGO OPENS TARLAC BRANCH

HOTEL Logo recently opened in Tarlac Branch located along MacArthur Highway in Tarlac City, about 200 meters away from SM Tarlac. The 200th hotel of the country's biggest hotel chain, the Tarlac branch caters to businessmen, tourists and vacationists seeking an affordable accommodation that provides comfort, cleanliness, privacy, security, and courteous service from a well-trained staff.

SOHI'S, NPDC TIE UP FOR CHRISTMAS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Sol Sohio, Parks Development Committee Executive Director Adel Fabiano and Sony Philippines, Inc. Managing Director Takeo Kuroda shake hands after formalizing the partnership of Sohio, NPDC and the Department of Tourism Rizal Park's Photography Contest dubbed "Lensmanship Pandurog Matapat sa Rizal Park". Photos entered should have been taken during the New Year's Eve countdown at the Rizal Park.

Korea plant tour for InfraMac clients

EXECUTIVES (Identities) recently brought 19 valued customers from the construction and mining industries to Gunsan, Wanjoo, and Mokdonsan in the Daesan Plant in Seoul, Chungbuk and Gunsan, South Korea to tour the plant and meet their partners in both Inhabitat and Daesan. It was a venue for customers to get to know one another better and for customers to see the production plant of Daesan Industries' Construction Equipment, the flagship company of the diverse Daesan portfolio exclusively exclusive in the Philippines by partner company InfraMac Industrial Corporation.

Established early this year in January, InfraMac (InfraMac Corporation (InfraMac) the joint collaboration of SP Corporations and Tri-Globe Transport Services and Trading, Inc., launched the Daesan brand in a highly attended launch event last July 27, 2011 with executives from Daesan, including Executive Director Mr. Hee-soo Ahn and General Manager Chuck Yoon Kwa in Inha Korea to join the festivities. Last September, they brought several of their valued clients to the launch of the Korean Amusement Equipment DAO (AEP) in Melbi, Norway.

Carrying the Daesan Industries' Construction Equipment arm, the flagship company of the diverse Daesan brand portfolio, Inhabitat offers Daesan's reasonably priced and high quality construction equipment to the Philippine market. The Daesan Industries' construction portfolio includes wheel-style Bobcat loaders, Daesan Mixer, Bobcat, and Dagwood Road. With such a high quality selection of equipment at a reasonable price Daesan Industries Company is ranked sixth in the world in quality construction equipment.

2011 has been a landmark year for both Daesan and InfraMac Industries. After a successful launch in the country and the opening of the Daesan branch in 2011, InfraMac is looking forward to growth and success in 2012.

EQUICOM TIES UP WITH COLLEGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MANILA

EDUCOM Secretary Ernie, in conjunction with Ben Ilao and the Foundation, recently launched computer units and related accessories in the College of the Holy Spirit Manila (CHSM) in support of the school's aim to deliver of quality education to students in information technology. Signing the Memorandum of Agreement are, from left, Dana J. Guevarra-Ortiz, vice chairman of the Equicom Group; Fabian Co Pyong, president of the College of the Holy Spirit Manila; Antonino Calma Jalbo, Jollibee Foods Group head of Business Strategy Bond; and Fr. Melino Soares, Dept. treasurer of CHSM.

Beautiful nails by Bobbie Smashed

YOUR NAILS are just as important as your wardrobe, hair and make-up. To give them that "immediately" brand-like appearance, paint them with the new Bobbie Smashed. All eyes will be on you and on your striking nails with this trendy and edgy polish with a cracked effect that was popular in the 90s and is now enjoying a resurgence among nail lovers everywhere!

Bobbie has three gorgeous colors to choose from: Smashing Red, Smashing Violet or Smashing Black.

They are easy to use so you can have nail art in a jiffy that look like you just stepped out of a salon, here's how:

1. Apply 1 to 2 coats of your chosen Bobbie Nail Polish as your base color. Opt for a contrasting color or a matte base to contrast quick drying.

2. Once thickness of Bobbie's Smashing Nail, Smashing Violet or Smashing Black cracked nail polish.

3. Wait for a few seconds for cracks to appear, and apply top coat to prevent the "Smashing" nail design.

Bobbie Smashed Cracked Nail Polish Collection comes in nail bottles at an affordable SRP of P99.75 each. This new line of Bobbie Nail Colour products is offered by Chic Insider Corp., is available in Watsons Beyond Care stores, Robinson's Department Stores, Robinson's Supermarket, Mercury Drug Stores, The Landmark Department Stores, Rustan's department stores, other leading drugstores, convenience stores, supermarkets and department stores nationwide.

PAL Cargo helps 'Sendong' victims as operations normalize

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES (PAL) Cargo played host to thousands of typhoon 'Sendong' victims in Northern Mindanao just as it resumed full normal operations in its home base at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 2.

For the past two weeks since massive floods swept out entire villages, PAL Cargo has been ferrying an average of 10 to 18 tons of relief goods daily to Cagayan de Oro City. These consist of food, water, clothing, medicine and other relief items, most of which were carried by the flag carrier free of charge.

PAL is the only airline in the domestic network using wide-bodied aircraft, enabling it to carry up to 20 tons in its belly, particularly to Cebu, Davao, and General Santos. PAL is also the preferred airfreight carrier for aquatic, agricultural and fine-arts products for export, since the airline has the most direct flights to Asia, Australia, Canada and USA.

PAL Cargo also boasts of unique products. It's One-Stop-Shop allows hassle-free cargo movement from domestic origin to international flights or vice-versa. It also offers a service called SHOSH or Stapled Handling of Origin Shipment, which carries cargo on the same day or tomorrow, don't pay.

With its new service provider, SkyLogistics Philippines, Inc., it now can offer rate for PAL Cargo to regain the confidence of its regular customers, since it has a pool of well-trained, dynamic and efficient workforce.

"We assure our clients and importers that with its new partner, PAL Cargo will maintain its dominance in the cargo market and continue offering quality service," said Daniel Lim, Assistant Vice President for Cargo Sales.

Domestic Cargo acceptance is open 24 hours, while International Cargo accepts shipment as early as 4:30 am until 7:30 pm. With its regular classes, and accredited cargo agents are advised to transfer their shipments at least three hours before the flight to avoid being queued.

Meanwhile, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other reputable entities may still coordinate with the PAL Foundation for relief goods they wish to send to typhoon "Sendong" victims. Photo: contact PAL Foundation through mcosha_carmino@mail.com.ph.

Weather Tech flooring interior protection for various car models from Mathers

MOTORISTS Auto Detailing and Car Care brings you another tool in protecting your car's interior flooring. The all-new Weather Tech automotive floor mats are manufactured to the unique specifications of every car they produce for. Each Weather Tech Mat mold fits exactly into the car specific for its use. Weather Tech mats protect your car's carpet and flooring with a unique contour that can withstand most wear and tear more so on automobile enthusiasts' cars. The Weather Tech mat is one under-guaranteed of Weather Tech's part to the former Name, it fits exactly into your flooring without need for cutting nor needed holes or edges. Mothers Auto Detailing has Weather Tech mats for Toyota Land Cruiser and Fortuner, Subaru Forester and Impreza, and MMC Coupers. Weather Tech Front Mat Mats are currently available at Subaru Motor Image showrooms, select Toyota dealerships and at Mother's Auto Detailing at 322 Sandoval Road, Barangay Little Baguio, San Juan City (Metro Manila). Check out their website at www.MOTHERS.com or email them at ryan_tan@yahoo.com or call them at 632-744-5875. Other Mothers products can also be found at affiliate outlets: Hen's Tools Marketing Inc. 1 & 3 and SM Auto Hardware, True Value and CPI in Cebu City.

PH Canine Club hosting As-Pac tilt

THE PHILIPPINE Canine Club Inc. (PCCI), the country's premier registration body for pedigreed dogs, will host the 2012 Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI) Asia and Pacific Section (Asia) in Manila. The event will take place Feb. 24-26 at the SMX Convention Center.

The international dog show is held every year in different locations in Asia Pacific, and will bring together expert judges from all over the world, including Finland, Colombia, Slovenia, Israel, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Taiwan, and South Korea. One year's host country.

The three-day show will feature three sub-events: the FCI and FCCI All-Breed Championship Dog Show; the FCI Asia and Asian Kennel Union (AKU) All-Breed Championship Dog Show; the FCI Asia and the Pacific Section Dog Show and AKU All-Breed Championship Dog Show. All events are open to the public. Tickets will be available on-site.

The 2012 FCI Asia and the Pacific Section Show's "Best in Show" winner will represent the FCI Asia and the Pacific Section at the Bulawan World Championships 2012. Also at stake are the FCI International Champion, Asian Champion, Philippine Champion, Philippine United Champion and World Power titles.

Kilusang Kayuranggi slates teacher training workshop

BROWN MOVEMENT for Cultural Advancement, Inc. (Kilusang Kayuranggi), a non-profit, non-stock, non-political group, is to promote, promote and enhance the Filipino cultural genius in offering a six-day culture workshop for teachers resources on Philippine culture.

Entitled "Sharing the Passion" the seminar-workshop on Jan. 22 at the Bulwagan Hall, Department of Education, Pasig City, aims to uplift the consciousness of our teachers in imparting Philippine history, culture and arts. Moreover, the workshop intends to provide the teachers with a practical handle and appreciation of the Filipino language and literature. These will be a discussion of approaches, methods and topics to be used for approaches. In addition, participants are expected to come up with their own cultural activities that may be brought up to the groups for evaluation.

Facilitators for the Workshop include: Prof. Felipe M. de Leon, Jr. Chairman, National Commission for Culture and the Arts; Chairman, Brown Movement for Cultural Advancement, Inc.; writer/book author Ms. Victorina "Tibi" B. dela Rama, President, Brown Movement for Cultural Advancement, Inc.; management consultant, Mr. Melo Lozo, officer, Brown Movement for Cultural Advancement, Inc.; Dr. Rosario Tinio, among others.

Interested participants may call 404-9455, 833-4938, 913-6923 or email dilakayurangganiyahoo.com or brown.movement@yahoo.com.

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ELEDIVINA P. DE VELA

Funeral Notice for the late Eledivina P. De Vela

Her bereaved children, grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in Heaven.

She looks like she's sleeping at La Funeraria Paz Chapels

Interment will be on January 11, 2012 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina at 10:00 a.m.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." – 2 Timothy 4:7

ENGR. ADOLFO MALIXI FLORES

Funeral Notice for the late Engr. Adolfo Malixi Flores

"For me, your is to live and for Heaven is right." – Philippians 1:21-26

He is survived by his wife, Ma. Rachelle Flores; children Ana Ed & Gerry Flores, Jun & Wilfi Rojas, Arthur & Andrea; grandchildren Ava Ia, Flo, Alexis, Mike & Kent; grandgrandson Ryan; brothers-in-law & sisters-in-law; nephews & nieces; relatives and friends request the prayers readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state in the Family Residence in Cainta St., Bulacan City, Bulacan.

Interment will be on January 11, 2012 at the Eternal Home Memorial Park, Malanday City, Bulacan after the 3:00pm mass at St. Joseph Cathedral.

JOSE "OGIE" LAYUG, JR.

Our dearly beloved

Funeral Notice for the late Jose "Ogie" Layug, Jr.

Tragically passed our Lord on December 28, 2011 at the age of 32.

His wife Leanne loving children Jhe & Rod, Jin & Tess, Pedz & Philip, Abi, Ren & Jun, Brandel, Abi & Dang, and Chris & Gwen, Brother Jimm, Sister Lizma, Sister in Law Ana, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and other relatives request the prayers readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at #4 San Roque, Lingao, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at Lingao Central Public Memorial Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. mass to be held at Lingao Cathedral.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

DepEd

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY TO BID FOR PPP SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS

The Department of Education (DepED) under implementation of the Public Private Partnership for Schools Program (PPPSP) invites pre-qualified contractors to bid for the design, financing, construction, and maintenance of one (one) new elementary school building in the following locations:

Contract Package	Region	Proposed Number of School Buildings	Number of Buildings to be Constructed	Estimated Number of Classrooms
Contract Package 1	Region II	100	100	1,000
Contract Package 2	Region III	100	100	1,000
Contract Package 3	Region IV-A	100	100	1,000
TOTAL		300	300	3,000

The number of school sites, school buildings, and classrooms are approximate, and subject to change. Each school building will consist of two (2) storey buildings with minimum of four (4) classrooms per building, constructed in a single phase. Water and sanitation facilities, electrical connection, and other amenities will be provided and completed in accordance with prevailing DepED Standard Specifications. Pre-fabricated school buildings may be allowed subject to the approval of the DepED Bureau of Construction. Interested contractors may apply for pre-qualification and bidding documents at the Office of the Undersecretary for Legal and Governance Affairs, Department of Education, Mezzanine Floor, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per contract package.

The Pre-qualification, Bidding and Awards Committee (PBAC) for Public Private Partnership for Schools Program (PPPSP) reserves the right to reject any or all pre-qualification documents, including the pre-qualification of any or all prospective bidders, without incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidders, and to waive any defect therein in the interest of the PPPSP.

The bidding will be held on the date stated in the Prequalification and Bid Data Sheet for the DepED Contract Package. Bidders must submit their bids in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders and other bidding documents, including the Terms of Reference, prepared by the PBAC.

Prospective Bidders may obtain the complete Documents, consisting of Invitation to Bid, Instructions to Bidders, Bid Data Sheet, General Conditions of Contract, Technical Specifications, Terms of Reference, Schedule of Requirements, Bid Forms, Contract Agreement Forms, and Bidding Documents, and visit the Bid Security Declaration Forms, Contract Agreement Forms, and Bidding Documents, and visit the Project Sites from the Office of the Undersecretary for Legal and Governance Affairs, Department of Education, Mezzanine Floor, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per contract package. The fee may be paid in cash or by manager's check payable to the Department of Education. Any decision to reject the bid of any prospective bidder shall be based on the grounds set forth in the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Public Private Partnership for Schools Program, and shall be made available upon written request.

Prospective Bidders may submit their submissions or proposals/bids, together with the documentary requirements mentioned in the requirements to be made, on or not later than 9:00 a.m. on 31 January 2012, at the Office of the Undersecretary for Legal and Governance Affairs, Department of Education, Mezzanine Floor, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines.

For more information, please contact:

Undersecretary for Legal and Governance Affairs
Department of Education
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines
Telephone No. 637-4260 local 210
Telefax No. 637-4260 local 210

(PPPSP)

PHOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

PHOC

Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone No. 479-0400 local 280
Telefax/Direct: 840-0138 / Fax No. (632) 840-7019

NOTICE OF NEGOTIATED PROCUREMENT
(Two Failed Biddings)

PHOC Exploration Corporation (PHOC EC), through its 2011 Corporate Budget intends to apply the sum of **Two Million Seven Hundred Pesos (Php2,700,000.00)**, inclusive of all applicable taxes and other charges, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Medical Services for Corporate In-House Clinic and Out-Patient for PHOC EC**. Financial proposals received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected.

PHOC EC now invites proposals for the **Medical Services for Corporate In-House Clinic and Out-Patient for PHOC EC** (please see attached Terms of Reference for complete details of the Project).

Proposals with complete details and conformity to the Terms of Reference may be delivered to the address below on or before **January 13, 2012 not later than 2:00 P.M.**, attention to Mrs. Sheila I. de Vera. Late submission shall not be accepted. Negotiation shall be made starting with the lowest calculated/highest rated bidder.

For further information, please contact:

PHOC EC Procurement Section
c/o Ms. Benilde C. Barrozo and Ms. Sheila de Vera
Bldg. 1 Energy Center, Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. Nos. (02) 479-0227 or 840-7019
Fax. (02) 840-7019
Email: phocbenilde@pcso.gov.ph

PHOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all/total any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders. PHOC EC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.phoc-ec.com.ph and/or the PhilGEPS website at www.philgeps.net.

(Sgd.) **CANDIDO M. MAGSOMBOL**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3F Andenson Bldg. E. Rod. Ayala, Lucena City
Tel/Fax Nos.: (042) 710-0139
(042) 373-2376

January 06, 2012

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for alien employment permit/s:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Job/Duties
1.	SFI MAGIC STEEL (PHILIPPINES), INC. Calamba Technopark, Brgy. Canlubang	Mr. Shuji Sakai Japanese	President
2.	METROLEUM PHILIPPINES (PHILIPPINES), INC. CORPORATION Ortigas Avenue, Binangonan, Cavite, Metro	Mr. Rosario Gusti Japanese	Senior Vice President / Finance Director to Executive Advisor, Customer Service Marketing Operations
3.	D & T AUDIT (PHILIPPINES), INC. Brgy. Mamatid, Binangonan Rizal	Mr. Wanchong Korean	Typing Manager (Interpreter)
4.	D & T AUDIT (PHILIPPINES), INC. Brgy. Mamatid, Binangonan Rizal	Mr. Ramiel Nieri Bahrain	Planning Manager
5.	D & T AUDIT (PHILIPPINES), INC. Brgy. Mamatid, Binangonan Rizal	Mr. Mike Mabe Korean	Secretary / Typist / Interpreter
6.	D & T AUDIT (PHILIPPINES), INC. Brgy. Mamatid, Binangonan Rizal	Mr. Mohammad Rezaul Karim Bangladeshi (Bangladesh Passport No. BA0000000)	IT / Quality Control Engineer
7.	D & T AUDIT (PHILIPPINES), INC. Brgy. Mamatid, Binangonan Rizal	Mr. Lanudeshi Sri Lankan Singaporean	Writing Support Specialist
8.	Mr. Emmanuel Bonaiuto / Lipinski	Italian	Finance Industrial Manager
9.		Mr. Sanjeevan Shree Ramdas	Assistant Manager
10.	LUMINARY CALIBRATION, CORP. Lot 4 Phase 1, Block 1, Bldg. 1, Batangas City	Mr. Leif Boswell British	Assistant

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application(s), please communicate with the undersigned immediately.

ATTY. RICARDO E. MARTINEZ, JR., CESO III
Regional Director

To guard against fraud and unfair practices, employers and employment agencies must first secure Alien Employment Permit from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) at Regional Offices or Extension Offices.

More Classifieds

Hottoyz A15
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company A15

Paulinians celebrate 25 with Trad'faith concert

MARK THE DATE. JAN. 14, 2012, on the St. Paul College of Pasig-Pasay-Quezon City's 1987 batch to attend the concert featuring Trad'faith at the SPCP grounds.

Proceeds of the concert will go to the "Adopt a Paulinian/Paulinian-ang Ampunan" of Batch '87, which aims to provide full academic scholarships to underprivileged but deserving students of St. Paul College of Pasig-Pasay.

Co-sponsored by Globe Telecom Inc., the 8:00 p.m. Trad'faith Mass of the 1987 Alumni (which will take place after the 6 p.m. Homecoming) is a culmination of a string of activities (SPCP Batch 1987 fun) held since the latter part of 2011 in commemoration of its silver jubilee.

Tickets to the Jan. 14 Trad'faith concert, which is open to the public, are on board of P250 each. Tickets are available at the St. Paul College of Pasig-Pasay, 412 Quirino Avenue, La Huerta Parañaque, Metro Manila and tickets for Text Casters - 0905 3118 for 113. For further inquiries, email: spcp1987@alumni.stpaul.com

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES COOPERATIVE, INC.

Tel. Nos. (2) 527-3877
Fax (2) 527-3877

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bid No. 2012-01

Bureau of Lighthouses Cooperative, Inc. (BLCI) invites all qualified to bid and to apply for eligibility for the supply, delivery and installation of Solar Powered Lighthouse Equipment and Materials for the following Lighthouses, Solar Lanterns and Marine Equipment/Materials. Prices are to be delivered duties paid.

Interested bidders may obtain information and secure bid documents from the Office of the Bureau of Lighthouses Cooperative, Inc. (BLCI) at Rm. 201 Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per contract package.

Name of Lighthouse	Solar Lantern
Bidding	January 16, 2012 to 2:00 pm
Opening of Bids	January 16, 2012 at 2:00 pm

Failure to follow the above mentioned bidding activity instructions will be grounds for disqualification.

The Board reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

BLCI assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **JACEL M. ALDEMA**
BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **CARLOS G. TABLE**
Cooperative Manager

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MONALIZA G. DE GUZMAN

MICHELLE ANNE JOYCE P. MARTINEZ

This is to inform the public that the persons whose names and pictures appear above are no longer connected with Heavarin Hotel Management Inc. effective November 14, 2011.

For information leading to the above persons, please contact us through our telephone number (632) 520-1234

ATTENTION:
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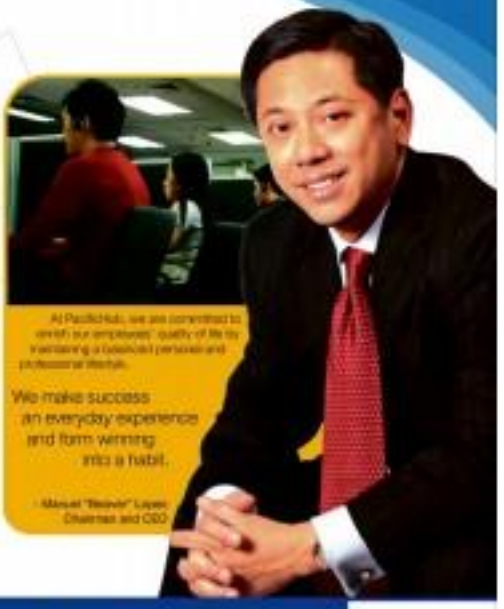

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- 30 CS/Retention Agents for AU Account
- 20 Healthcare Back Office Agents
- 25 Quality Analysts for US account
- 5 Quality Analysts for AU Account
- 20 Team Supervisors for US Account
- 2 Team Supervisors for AU Account (Telco)
- 1 Shift Manager for AU Account (Telco)
- 3 Trainors for Sales
- 2 Project Based Trainers
- Sales Operations Manager for US Account
- Sales Senior Operations Manager
- Business Development Manager
- Sales Manager (SB)
- Lead Generation Specialists (IC)
- Contract Quality Officer (EU)
- Senior Manager for Corporate Sales
- Compensation and Benefits Manager
- Corporate Recruiter
- 4 Project Based Talent Acquisition Specialists
- 12 Independent Recruiters
- 2 Project Management Officers (CAR)

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DEVELOPMENT OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST (WRITER)

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID/Philippines) has an immediate need for a Development Outreach and Communications Specialist (Writer). The Specialist serves as a full member of the USAID/Philippines Program Office Outreach and Communication Unit, by participating in the planning, implementing and implementing of public communication activities to achieve for Filipino and American constituencies. S/he collaborates closely with USAID technical offices, implementing partners, and the US Embassy Public Affairs Section (PAS) to develop and implement the USAID/Philippines annual public communication strategies that promote the mission's response to both internal and external audiences.

The Specialist drafts content and products for public audiences, such as media and press releases; ascertains the public website and social media sites, acts as content editor for the Mission; and fulfills requests for information from the media and public. S/he also assists in collecting, investigating, managing, and distributing information associated with the USAID foreign assistance program in the Philippines and the Pacific region. Missions responsibilities includes activities in the Pacific Islands such as Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Fiji.

S/he works closely with PAS and the Mission Director to draft speeches for the Ambassador and other USAID high-level officials. The incumbent is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system to track and archive speeches and articles written about USAID programs. S/he organizes to translate from the general public and the media on USAID's programs, activities, and any other general information requests.

The Specialist performs other duties as required and assigned by the supervisor.

The candidate must meet the following Evaluation Criteria:

* **Education** (Pass/Fail) – a Bachelor's or Master's degree in journalism, public relations, communications, or a very closely related field, is required. An advanced degree in the above or a related field is desired.

* **Work Experience** (30%) – A minimum of three to five years of progressively responsible experience in writing, editing, media relations, public relations, communication is required. The candidate should have a portfolio that provides assurance that the Specialist is skilled in researching information in a variety of target audiences. Experience implementing public relations campaigns and in speech writing is strongly preferred. Prior work with the USG or another international development organization, in an English-language environment, is highly desirable. Prior experience to outreach, reporting, and speechwriting will be a determining factor in the selection.

* **Job Knowledge** (30%) – The successful candidate must be capable of drafting information messages in various media formats (press releases, speeches, letter, etc.) targeting a variety of audiences and have an interest in implementing new media communication tools. Knowledge of standard principles, methods, and practices of communications and information management are required in order to design customized materials. A working knowledge of the fields of media relations and publications is required. Must have a demonstrated ability to conduct research and prepare reports, speeches and presentations. The work also requires a broad understanding of issues related to Philippine development.

* **Skills and Abilities** (40%) The position requires excellent news and script writing, editing, and research skills; strong organizational and project management skills within a multi-cultural work environment; the ability to work independently, take initiative, manage several activities at once, and work under pressure to meet deadlines; strong interpersonal skills with internal and external counterparts; the maturity and discretion to work effectively in representing the U.S. Government and the ability to travel and work weekends or after hours on occasion. The ability to interpret and/or gather information from multiple technical sources, and to produce and transform technical language into well-written, easily understood, non-bureaucratic prose with very short deadlines, is required. The incumbent must be able to combine this work of others and maintain all responsibilities in this development at a fast pace.

* **Communications and Computer Skills** (5 %) – Requires outstanding written and oral communication skills. Proficiency in the use of various computer software.

Based on the successful candidate's salary history, a maximum annual salary of PHP 1,400,000.00 is offered. The compensation package included mid-year and year-end bonuses, health and life insurance, and a supplementary retirement plan.

Note: USAID reserves the right to reject any and all applicants. Only short-listed candidates will be notified. This position will be filled subject to the availability of funds.

Application letter and comprehensive resume must be received
no later than January 23, 2012 at
Human Resources Division, P.O. Box 54 4622 1000, Ermita, Manila or
via email at ashbrittle@usaid.gov

get hired www.jobmarketonline.com